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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market 833

Leading Articles—

The Realities of Disarmament 835
The Road to Recovery ... 836
The Oath and the Annuities 837
The Quarter's Overseas Trade 838
The Crisis in Greece 840
Industrial Profits 841

Notes of the Week—

Lord Grey and Tariffs ... 842
The Dominion and Ottawa 842
Hindenburg's Victory 843
The Prussian Elections.... 843
The Far Eastern Deadlock 843
The Disturbances in Newfoundland 843
The Law and the Sabbath 844
A Simian Conundrum 844
British Industry 844
The Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget 844
The New South Wales Default 845
Iron and Steel Production 845
The Shipbuilding Returns 845
Cotton Trade Wages 845
The Sugar Beet Controversy 846
Shipping Freight Index... 846
United Kingdom Provident Institution 846
Norwich Union Life 846
Norwich Union Fire 847
The Movement of Prices—A Correction 847

Overseas Correspondence—

League of Nations 847
United States 848
France 849
Germany 850
Italy 851
Holland 851
Austria 852
Hungary 853
Sweden 854

Letters to the Editor—

The Anglo-Irish Treaty... 855
The Valuation of Sterling 855
The Beet Sugar Subsidy... 856
Railways and Roads 857

Books Received 857

The Stock Exchange—

Stock Exchange Outlook... 858
The Week in the Markets 859
London Active Securities Prices and Yields 860
New Issue Prices 862

Foreign Stock Exchanges—

New York 862
Berlin 863
Amsterdam 863
Other Centres..... 863

Investment Notes—

Further Kreuger Developments 863
Scottish Investment Trust Results 863
Unilever Accounts 863
Hudsons Bay Company... 864
Agricultural Mortgage Corporation 864
Allied Newspapers 865
Imperial Chemical Meeting 865
Ford Meeting 865
Whitbread 865
London County Freehold.. 866
Greyhound Racing Companies 866
New Issues in March 866

Mining Notes—

Tin Developments 866
Union Corporation 867
Anglo-American Group Results 867
Globe and Phœnix 867
Rezende 868
St. John del Rey 868
Company Meetings of the Week 868
Capital Issues 868
Dividend Announcements 869

Company Meetings, &c. ... 870

Government Returns, &c.—

National Accounts..... 877
Treasury Bills by Public Tender 878

The Bankers' Gazette—

Bank of England 878
Bankers' Clearing Returns 878
Provisional Clearing Returns 878
Overseas Bank Returns... 878
Monthly Statement of London Clearing Banks 880
Loan and Discount Rates 881
Rates of Exchange 881
Overseas Bank Rates 881
Bullion 882
Gold and Silver Prices... 882

Company News—

Balance Sheets 882
Industrial Profits 882
Weekly Traffic Returns ... 883
Reports and Notices 883
Profit and Loss Accounts 884

Commercial Reports—

Market Summary 885
The Coal Trade 885
Iron and Steel 885
Other Metals 886
Textiles 886
The Grain Markets 886
Overseas Trade Returns... 887
Other Foods 888
Prices Current 888
Miscellaneous Commodities 890
Commodity Prices in the United States..... 891

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY has again become very easy, and early in the week balances were in some cases almost unlendable. A large quantity of American money was on offer at the week-end, and this accentuated the ease. New money was obtainable at 1¼ down to 1½ per cent. over the week-end, and on Monday, despite a big excess of Treasury bill payments over maturities, the rate was no better than 1¼-½ per cent. On Tuesday the ease became even more

pronounced at rates running down to 1½ per cent., but since then money has become a shade more usable at 1½ and 1¾ per cent., partly because of some absorption of short money by the gilt-edged market. Renewals were arranged at 1¾ per cent. early in the week, but latterly the rate has eased to 1½ per cent.

* * * *

At last week's Treasury bill tender it was generally understood that a higher rate would be desirable, while some reliance was also placed on the fact that the new bills represented the unpopular July maturities. Consequently tenders were made at higher rates, so much so that a certain number of applicants tendered too high and so missed the allotments. Heavy applications were made by both British and foreign banks, and in the end applications totalled £76.2 millions for the £45.0 millions of bills on offer, against £61.9 millions the week before. The average tender rate worked out at £2 8s. 4.15d., in comparison with £2 8s. 3.73d. the previous week. The higher rate, however, was not held, for a keen demand for bills sprang up from those who had missed the tender, and they rapidly drove the rate for "hot" bills down to a minimum of 1 15/16 per cent. By Thursday the rate had recovered slightly to 2-2 1/16 per cent.

	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3½	3½	3½	3½	4 (Mar. 17, '32)
Banks' Deposit Rate..	1½	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 17, '32)
Discount Call	1½	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 17, '32)
Houses Notice ...	1½	1½	1½	1½	2½ (Mar. 17, '32)
Market rate ("hot" Treasury bills).....	2	1 11/16–¾	2½–⅝	2-2⅛	...
Market rate (3 months' bank bills)	2½–3½	2–3½	2⅛–3½	2⅛–3½	...

* * * *

The pressure of money has also held down the market rate on three months' bank bills, which were quoted at 2½–7/16 per cent. on Wednesday and 2½ per cent. the following day. Standstill bills were quoted on Thursday at rates ranging from 2¾ to 3½ per cent. according to the name these carried. The week has witnessed a keen demand for short bills from the banks, who are believed to be buying fresh bills in order to find an outlet for their surplus funds. This demand gradually depressed the rate on short bills, until by Thursday both May and early June maturities were dealt in at 1½-1 15/16 per cent. It is believed that the market's supplies of May bills have been practically exhausted, and if the banks continue to absorb June maturities greater stringency than usual will prevail at the half-year.

* * * *

The main change in this week's Bank return consists of a further big increase of "other" securities held by the Issue Department. This item now stands at £36.9 millions, against £25.8 millions last week, and only £6.6 millions as recently as February 24th last. This increase of £30.3 millions in seven months arises from the heavy purchases of devisen made by the Bank during this period. The note circulation has been reduced by £3.0 millions during the past week, which practically completes the return of the holiday currency. Taking both departments together, Government Securities show a reduction of £6.8 millions and Other Securities an increase of £5.0 millions. Public Deposits have risen by £2.3 millions, and Bankers' Deposits are little changed at £78.4 millions, against £79.5 millions last week. The Proportion stands at 32.1 per cent., against 29.7 per cent. a week ago.

* * * *

Once more, some slight disappointment was expressed in the market at the absence of any reduction in Bank rate. In one or two quarters it is thought that a reduction has been postponed until it can be made to coincide with the announcement of a conversion scheme, possibly in conjunction with next week's Budget. Another point of view put forward is that, inasmuch as the market is convinced that Bank rate must ultimately fall to 2½ per cent., a reduction from 3½ to 3 per cent. would give the signal for a further landside in market rates of discount, and so Bank rate would remain ineffective. Neither of these reasons is exactly convincing, and it is to be hoped that the decision to reduce the rate will not be delayed much longer.

* * * *

The March averages of the nine English clearing banks afford definite evidence of the return of funds to London from abroad. Notwithstanding the further collection of revenue, which continued up to the end of the month, deposits have risen since February by £17.6 millions.

	March, 1931.	December, 1931.	January, 1932.	February, 1932.	March, 1932.
Capital and reserves.....	139·1	130·0	122·6	122·6	122·6
Acceptances	121·5	102·1	98·7	99·6	98·7
Deposits (including undivided profits, &c.).....	1,726·2	1,700·5	1,677·3	1,681·7	1,699·3
Total liabilities	1,979·8	1,932·6	1,898·8	1,835·1	1,860·6
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	227·3	237·1	234·0	214·2	218·0
Money at call.....	110·7	116·6	113·9	106·6	109·2
Investments	320·9	305·9	292·7	283·9	289·9
Discounts	238·5	244·1	237·0	205·3	214·7
Loans and advances.....	919·4	884·0	889·3	885·3	886·0
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	163·0	144·9	141·9	133·9	142·0
Total assets	1,979·8	1,932·6	1,898·8	1,835·1	1,860·6

Acceptances have recovered to their January level. As regards the banks' assets, advances are fractionally lower on the month. Apparently loans arranged in January for income-tax purposes are being repaid. There is an increase of £3.8 millions in cash, and the banks' purchases of bills are reflected in an increase of £9.4 millions in discounts. Investments are practically unchanged.

* * * *

In New York, call rate has remained unchanged at 2½ per cent., but further reductions have been made in open market rates on bankers' acceptances, so that 90-day bills are now quoted at rates running at levels as low as 1½-½ per cent. Last week's Federal Reserve statement recorded an increase of $19 millions in currency in circulation, thus reducing the recent downward trend. Gold imports of $2,000,000 were reported from Canada on Wednesday of this week, and exports of $495,000 to Holland.

* * * *

The Foreign Exchange market was not very active this week, and although sterling fluctuated to some extent, and closed below the best, the undertone was firm. New York went rather against us at 3.78, against 3.80 last week. Montreal improved to 4.18. Paris was very firm and went from 96¼ to 95 15/16. Brussels was considerably better at 26.97, and Milan improved by ⅛ to 73½. Madrid was at 49⅜, against 50½ last week. Berlin went from 16.02 to 15.90 and Switzerland from 19.50 to 19.42. The Scandinavian exchanges were weak and irregular with the Kreuger revelations, Stockholm falling away from 18.88 to 19.95 and Oslo from 19.05 to 19.40. Copenhagen was not so seriously affected and declined from 18.20 to 18.30. The South American currencies are, to a large extent, still only nominal. Rio gained 1/16d. at 4½d., and Buenos Aires was irregular and weakened from 36½d. to 36⅜d. Montevideo gained ¼d. at 29½d. In the Far East the rupee was weaker at 1s. 6 7/16d., but the yen improved by ¼d. to 1s. 9½d. Batavia gained 7 points at 9.38. In the forward market one month's dollars were better by ⅛ at ⅛ cent discount, three months being unchanged at 2 cents discount. Paris went from par and 4 centimes discount to 8 and 6 centimes premium. Brussels weakened to 2 and 7 centimes discount. Milan was unchanged at last week's quotations. Madrid was firmer at ¼ peseta and ½ peseta discount for one and three months respectively. Amsterdam improved to ⅛ cent and 1 cent discount, against 1 and 2 cents discount last week. Berlin is still not quoted. Switzerland was firmer by ⅛ for both deliveries at 1½ and 2½ centimes premium. The silver market was quiet and transactions were small, but sufficient to advance prices by ⅛d. to 16⅛d. for cash and by ¼d. to 16 11/16d. for forward. The Chinese silver exchanges, however, fell away, Hongkong declining from 1s. 8⅛d. to 1s. 2⅛d. and Shanghai from 1s. 8⅛d. to 1s. 7⅛d.

THE REALITIES OF DISARMAMENT.

In one sense the Disarmament Conference has had a bad season. It opened under the shadow of the Far Eastern conflict; indeed, the conflict had just spread from Manchuria to Shanghai on the eve of the opening day, and the initial ceremony had to be postponed in order to make way for an emergency meeting of the League Council. This week, again, when the Conference has reassembled after the Easter recess, the skies are rather dark. In the Far East the Shanghai armistice negotiations have broken down. In Europe the Four Power Conference has been abortive, and at least four Central and South-East European countries are in imminent danger of a financial breakdown. From one standpoint these grave troubles are unfavourable to the Disarmament Conference's prospects, inasmuch as they distract the attention of the statesmen and the public to the immediate day-to-day problems and at the same time create an atmosphere of tension and apprehension. From another standpoint, however, it might be argued that this menacing course of international affairs which has been the Conference's background and accompaniment points the necessity for the Conference to persevere in its labours until it has achieved something really tangible.

There are three distinct fields in which it is incumbent upon the Conference to produce substantial results. Its principal and most important is also its most obvious task. The Conference has to secure an agreed reduction, by all parties, of the effective means of destruction at the disposal of the self-governing States of the world for making war. This task is imperative on account of the formidable intensification of war in modern times, a process which has been going on for about a century and a half, and which has been advancing, crescendo and accelerando, since 1914. Owing to our remarkable modern advances in mechanical technique and in organising power, the institution of war has become vastly more destructive to the victims and vastly more exhausting to the victors than it has ever been before; and these material advances in the art of destruction must admittedly prove fatal to the society which has made them unless we counteract the danger by some kind of self-denying ordinance—denying to ourselves and to each other, by national agreement, the prize of social suicide which we can hardly fail to win if we continue the Ishmaelitish competition of all against all.

This voluntary reduction in the means of warfare—that is to say, in weapon-power and in man-power—is the Disarmament Conference's first and most important objective; but it has at least two other goals. It has to put in hand, if not to carry to completion, an equalisation between the means of warfare that have been respectively allowed to the ex-victors and to the ex-vanquished under the four European peace treaties. And it has to secure for all Governments, in a financially straitened and embarrassed world, a perceptible instalment of budgetary relief. The goal of equalisation is, of course, the special concern of Germany. On the other hand, everybody wants budgetary relief, though many Governments are perhaps still able to persuade their constituent taxpayers that the "sacrifice" of scrapping a battleship or an army corps is greater than the sacrifice of continuing to pay for their maintenance. As for the voluntary reduction in the means of warfare, the first session of the Conference revealed a remarkable and unexpected consensus among the statesmen, at any rate in regard to the peculiarly destructive or peculiarly barbarous new-fangled weapons that have been introduced since the beginning of the Great War. All parties—in the French and in the non-French camp alike—singled out certain of these weapons and made proposals for dealing with them which differed in many respects but had one significant point in common, namely, that they ought not to be left to the discretion of individual Governments to possess these weapons in what quantities they chose or to make use of them at their own unfettered will.

This was the common postulate of "the Tardieu Plan" and of what may be called "the Grandi Plan," since the contra-French thesis was formulated best by the Italian delegate, though it was endorsed by almost every Government that did not happen to be the French Government's military ally. In everything beyond this, of course, the French and the contra-French theses differed *in toto*. M. Tardieu proposed to deal with the new-fangled deadly weapons by placing them at the disposal of the League of Nations (which was interpreted by unfriendly critics to mean at the disposal of France), while the Italian and American and British delegates, supported by the representatives of the great majority of the smaller countries, classified these weapons as specifically weapons of offence, and on that ground proposed that they should be either abolished outright or else limited drastically.

The proponents of this so-called "qualitative" reduction of armaments base their case on the following grounds. Suppose, they say, we all agree to abolish, or drastically reduce, our stocks of bombing planes and tanks and mobile heavy guns, while making lesser reductions, for the time being, in our stocks of stationary heavy guns and machine guns and rifles and barbed wire, it looks as though we might be able to weight the scales of warfare very considerably in favour of the defence and to the disadvantage of the attack. With these defensive weapons in hand, every country—even a small country—might be fairly confident of being able to defend its frontiers against all comers by calling up its native inhabitants and setting them to dig trenches in their native earth. The sense of security would be increased all over the world; and sooner or later an agreed reduction in defensive armaments, likewise, would follow. Incidentally, the other two purposes of the Disarmament Conference would be served. For the offensive weapons which it is proposed to abolish or reduce to vanishing point are, perhaps, the most expensive items in all national land armaments bills, and they are also the weapons that were specifically denied to the vanquished and allowed to the victors in the peace treaties.

In the case thus stated there is not a little force, though we are not disposed to minimise the weight of the criticism that security in Europe was ill to seek, long before the invention of poison gas, the heavy mobile gun, and the tank—two of which, indeed, were not in existence in August, 1914—and that in the absence of a real will to renounce aggression human invention might be only too successful in the discovery of effective aggressive means other than those formally renounced. This criticism cannot be dismissed as irrelevant; yet a beginning must be made somewhere, and in this matter of disarmament *c'est le premier pas qui coûte*. There is, therefore, much to be said for concentrating at this stage, when the Disarmament Conference has resumed its work after the Easter recess, upon dealing with the comparatively simple problem of the offensive weapons which were singled out, with impressive unanimity, for special treatment during the first stage of the Conference's work. It may be true, as our League correspondent points out on a later page, that no real progress can be made by the Conference until a decision has finally been taken on the plan—unlikely enough of acceptance—put forward by France for the establishment in effect of an international "army of security." Yet it is something if some positive action towards disarmament can be taken even on the limited and necessarily incomplete lines of "qualitative" reduction. It is, therefore, welcome news that the American delegation has taken a prompt and vigorous initiative on these lines. Last Monday—the opening day—Mr Hugh Gibson made a definite proposal for the scrapping of heavy mobile guns and tanks, and the abolition of poison gas; and he has demanded that the Conference should discuss this American proposal within

a week. In the expectation that this discussion will duly take place, Mr Stimson, the Secretary of State himself is at this moment on his way from Washington to Geneva. This American proposal has received immediate support from the British, Italian and German delegations. It has been opposed by M. Tardieu, for reasons described by our League correspondent, but it is to be hoped that the non-French group will have the courage of their opinion and will insist upon the new "Stimson Plan" being effectively discussed forthwith. The time has come for practical action; and the Conference will stultify itself if it goes on deliberately marking time while it waits wistfully for the Far Eastern crisis to relax or for the German Presidential Election to be followed by the parliamentary elections in Prussia, and for these to be followed in their turn by the parliamentary elections in France. Instead of waiting upon events, the Conference ought now to begin to make history on its own account.

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY.

Falling unemployment, a balanced Budget and trade returns which show that our exports are holding their own are among a number of signs that Britain is putting up a stout resistance to the further spread of trade depression. On the Continent, the victory of Hindenburg at last Sunday's polls has removed for some time to come one major cause of uncertainty in the political field. Indeed, the story of recent events generally in Germany illustrates the immense forces of resistance inherent in a great economic entity to disintegrating tendencies. But it is at best a ding-dong battle. The repercussions of the Kreuger failure, a new slump in Wall Street, the vagaries of Mr Lang in New South Wales, fresh barriers to trade and commerce in every direction are all giving, in their various ways, new shocks to the low economic vitality of the world.

Nor do well-meaning statesmen seem to be very efficient or prompt in their efforts to bring much-needed relief. The failure of the Four-Power Conference on the Danubian problem was not altogether unexpected, for no plan was proposed that went to the root of the trouble or seriously attempted to reconcile the conflicting interests which since 1918 have blocked the way to sane economic reconstruction in Central Europe. But to say this is to explain, not condone, the fiasco; and if the Four Powers could not agree, it is not surprising that the League Council, which has had before it, as a matter of urgency, its Financial Committee's recommendation of a guaranteed loan to some of these States, should have been unable to do anything more original than postpone its decision until May. The Financial Committee's plea of urgency has, in fact, had precisely the same fate as those of the Wiggin Committee and of the Young Plan Advisory Committee.

Under these circumstances, we must wait, say some, until the big issues are settled at Lausanne. Others again plead that Britain cannot be expected to take up definite position regarding economic reconstruction until after Ottawa. Ominous whisperings, however, are to be heard suggesting that it will be premature to do anything very definite in June, and that some excuse for further delay must be found. The simple truth is that the Governments of the world are a team without a leader, a council without a policy, a moving crowd without a definite sense of direction.

But if we cannot see any way out of the wood, it is the more desirable that we should try to learn from those who have been in a position to study the topography. Among those best qualified to guide us in reading the lessons of the past ten years, there is no one with higher credentials than Sir Arthur Salter, who surveys—perhaps too cursorily—in three hundred pages the chief financial, economic and political problems with which the world has to deal.*. Sir Arthur writes from the point of view of an international civil servant who has spent nearly a decade in the service of the League of Nations, who previously had experience of inter-Allied administration during the war, and who was for two years secretary of the Reparation Commission. This administrative experience alone would entitle his views to respect, but Sir Arthur's international reputation stands high, not merely as an official, but as a man of initiative and imagination and as the chief architect of the reconstruction work of the League in Central Europe. His judgment on world affairs will, therefore, carry exceptional weight.

If the book is in the main a precipitation of a singularly experienced judgment on a variety of subjects, it does in passing throw very illuminating side-lights on some of the events of the recent past. Most of us, for example, have forgotten, if we ever knew, that though France as a whole rejected Germany's offer to take steps to repair the devastated areas herself, this suggestion was, in fact, welcomed and supported by the Confederation of French Labour. How much trouble would have been avoided if this far-sighted judgment had been more widely held in France ten years ago! Sir Arthur writes, too, with the first-hand knowledge of the man whose business it was to smooth the working of the machine, when he describes the unsatisfactory working of the Reparation Commission. While agreeing with Mr Lloyd George that the scheme in its original inception had merits, he points out that its success was dependent on two assumptions, both of which were proved false—the first being that the total of scheduled damage would prove within Germany's capacity to pay; the second that America would ratify the Treaty and send a representative to occupy the fifth chair at the table and ensure that there would not be a deadlock. It was America's abstention which was responsible for the device of giving the French chairman a casting vote.

> Under these disabilities, especially the first, the Commission, instead of being all-powerful, independent and united, was, in fact, impotent, dependent and divided. . . . its internal organisation founded upon what one member described as the "sacred principle of international distrust." Its relations with the Government alternated between individual protests and collective compliance. . . . For a year or two it retained at least some illusion of power; thereafter it remained, like the town of Trieste, a structure built too generously for a business that had gone elsewhere.

Equally illuminating, and even more valuable in its implication for the future, is the scathing indictment which Sir Arthur brings against the wasteful expenditure of many public authorities in borrowing countries and the abuses which have arisen in connection with private foreign loans in the post-war period. There is much food for reflection in his final judgment—and in the grounds on which he arrives at it—that "with the exception of loans recommended by the League of Nations and the central banks, the bulk of the foreign loans in these years to public authorities in debtor countries would better not have been made."

If that is a fair judgment—and Sir Arthur's illustrations are drawn from many continents—it is due not merely, or, indeed, chiefly, to abuses in the system of competitive private loans, but to the fact that capital has flowed without adequate or far-sighted regard to the economic future of the countries whose individual borrowers seemed to be able to offer reasonable security. If the environment in which Austria was set to work out a new economic life were such as to make it impossible to retain her industries and commerce, Austria was a "bad risk" for any but self-liquidating short-term loans, except on the assumption that common sense would prevail over the restrictive policies that have established such a stranglehold on the commerce both of Europe and the world, and have distorted production from its natural courses. In its reconstruction work the League sought to ensure political security and budgetary stability, and it tried also to improve the economic background. But in this it was less successful. The chapter in which Sir Arthur Salter explains why it failed in this attempt and what line should now be pursued, touches the most vital problem with which we are now faced.

The story makes sorry reading. In the foreground is the action and example of the United States, which, from being a debtor, suddenly emerged after the war as a great creditor nation. But America's position as a lender was new and uncertain; it was important that to the utmost possible extent she should receive what was due to her

* "Recovery." By Sir Arthur Salter, K.C.B. G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., London.

in the form of goods. "In other words, the American tariff needed to be the lowest in the world. In fact, it was one of the highest." To a less extent the same is true of France. The one service performed by the crisis of 1931 is to reveal as never before "the anatomy of the world's economic structure."

In 1927 the World Economic Conference recommended the reduction and then the stabilising of tariffs; its influence and the subsequent discussions was such that the chief increases in tariffs were made not in Europe, but by countries outside, who did not participate in the debate. But the negotiations for general reduction—or even for a tariff truce—produced almost no result. Here are a few of the reasons:—

Tariffs have become exceedingly complex, they are on different levels, and constructed on different principles and with differing nomenclature. General agreements to modify these barbed-wire entanglements are extremely difficult to devise, and unless done on a general scale their technicalities prevent the enlistment of any general body of public opinion in their support.

Vested interests, both of labour and capital, have steadily grown up and created an atmosphere inimical to change. Consequently, when agriculturists, for example, find themselves damaged by industrial protection, it is easier to ask for and to obtain corresponding protection than to get the offending obstacles removed.

Those responsible for commercial policy habitually think in terms not of the policy that in their judgment may be best for the country, but of the reaction of a given policy on the party groupings on which their political support depends.

The most-favoured-nation clause as at present applied means that any reductions that may be made have to apply not only to the trade of those who offer liberal treatment in return, but to that of countries whose tariffs may be almost prohibitive.

Sir Arthur's proposals for coping with these difficulties, and for initiating a more liberal tendency in Europe follow broadly the lines of the report of the Conference of Economic Experts of August last. The following are among the conditions which he lays down. There is a case for asking non-European countries to concur in special arrangements for the European nations. Even a limited Customs Union—still less one for Europe as a whole—could not be achieved at one step, but the declared object of any plan should be to reduce and finally remove the barriers between the participating States. Between these States the most-favoured-nation clause should apply, and the reductions should aim at making any "intermediate" tariffs more level. Groups must be open to the admission of other countries and not create new and exclusive groups. There must be no increase of protection against non-participating States, and other countries whose general tariffs are equal to the lowest in the group should be given the advantage of the lower rates without having to increase their tariffs against the rest of the world.

Such a plan, which clearly can only hope to succeed if tariffs are simplified and cleared of their present excessive complexities, would create a lower tariff regime between certain countries and would tend to encourage its extension by offering inducements to other countries to conform to its clearly defined conditions.

This problem, however, like all the others which he discusses, forcefully illustrates what may almost be described as the main thesis of Sir Arthur Salter's book, namely, the striking contrast between the avowed opinion of the nations of the world as a whole and the action of its individual members. While all agree that barriers must be removed, everyone adds a new tier to his tariff wall. While all agree that, if the world is to be saved from a reversion to barbarism, civilised nations must disarm and live in peace, everyone polishes up his weapons of war. Even now, with the whole world in the toils, is it not impossible for collective wisdom to prevail over individual folly? Lausanne will give one more opportunity to the statesmen to answer this challenging question. Because the world has shown such unsuspected powers of resistance to the effects of credit collapse, suspension of contractual obligations, diminution of production and the slaughtering of trade, we cannot expect that the strain can be indefinitely prolonged without disaster. Nor is it enough to prop up a corner here or repair a crack there when a whole building is in danger of collapse. It will be high time in June to take a general survey and see what must be done in every direction and not for the limited field of reparations alone—to restore the shattered economic structure of the world.

THE OATH AND THE ANNUITIES.

The correspondence between His Majesty's Governments in the Irish Free State and in Great Britain, relating to the parliamentary oath and the land purchase annuities, has dispelled some of the pretence that had gathered around this controversy. Mr De Valera himself had fostered the belief that his claims were made upon a legal foundation, namely, the status of the oath in the Treaty and the degree of solemnity attaching to the agreement to pay the annuities. He himself, by a reversal of front which only the single of aim can accomplish in sincerity, has exposed that illusion. On March 22nd the High Commissioner for the Free State communicated to the Dominions Secretary a statement of which the first and key clause read: "The Oath is not mandatory to the Treaty." Mr De Valera, writing on April 5th in reply to the British Government's comment on that statement, begins his letter with these words: "Whether the Oath was or was not an integral part of the Treaty made ten years ago [he is quoting Mr Thomas's phrase] is not now the issue. The real issue is that the Oath is an intolerable burden to the people of this State, and that they have declared in the most formal manner that they desire its instant removal." The main impression that one receives from reading the correspondence is that Mr De Valera is obsessed with an idea and is prepared to "damn the facts." His description of the Treaty as having given the Free State "ten years of blood and tears and besmirched the name of England wherever a foul propaganda has been able to misrepresent us" would be ludicrous to anyone who had not deliberately blinded himself to the rising prosperity of Ireland, her complete internal autonomy and her accepted equality in the concert of nations. It is, no doubt, "foul propaganda" to point out, as Mr Thomas does in his second despatch, that Mr De Valera's claim that the Treaty of 1921 meant "the consummation of the outrage of Partition" is a flat contradiction of the truth. "There can be no conceivable hope for the establishment of a united Ireland except on the basis that its allegiance to the Crown and its membership of the British Commonwealth will continue unimpaired." Even this generalisation produced a little storm in Ulster, where it was falsely interpreted as hinting that the British Government actively contemplated the incorporation of the Six Counties with the Free State even within the framework of the Treaty. Sir Herbert Samuel is reported to have given Viscount Craigavon, the Premier of Northern Ireland, an explicit denial of such intention, but it is noteworthy that, according to Mr Lloyd George, "it was the hope of the framers of the Constitution that at no distant date North and South would willingly unite." All this exposes what an Alice-in-Wonderland world Mr De Valera lives in. He is not merely crying for the moon; he imagines it to be a cream cheese.

The British Government must have been at a loss to know how to answer his Note, since he had ruled out as irrelevant the legal question that he himself had raised, and had substituted a recital of the rights and wrongs of the Irish people which no knowledgeable person could accept. The Government contented themselves with a reaffirmation of their determination to stand by the Treaty Settlement and wisely abstained from uttering even the most veiled threats. Their attitude is rather like that of a benevolent father dissuading his son, who is of age and not to be forbidden outright, from marrying the tobacconist's assistant. "This is not a quarrel between you and me, my boy; it concerns all the family." When the young man, who is high-spirited and only too likely to defy threats, has deliberately said "To hell with the family" and put up the banns, then it will be time to explain the consequences of estrangement. But there must be no hasty cutting off with a shilling, for in this case no simple act of forgiveness would effect a return of the prodigal. Once Mr De Valera is told that Ireland can become a republic and take the consequences, he is no man to be daunted by consequences, and it might take another civil war in Ireland to undo his decision.

Let Mr De Valera pass what Bills he may. The British Government will certainly not coerce Dail Eireann into voting otherwise than it thinks fit; but equally the British Government should not recognise the validity of its resolutions until the whole Commonwealth has pronounced upon them. Ottawa will give an opportunity for that, and likewise for the exposure of the commercial consequences of secession. Irish and world opinion could not then arraign us for using an economic weapon to secure political allegiance. There is no question of economic war or retaliation, but the Free State could no longer expect the advantages if she renounced the duties of membership of the Commonwealth. The Free State Government has itself transferred the dispute from the legal to the material plane. True, it appears to base its case for the retention of the land annuities upon an implicit denial that there exists any legally valid undertaking to hand them over, but, whether or no the financial agreements of 1923 and 1926 can be so described, Mr De Valera can scarcely rest his claim in this matter upon juridical interpretation when in the matter of the Oath he comes dangerously near, by implication at least, to repudiation of the Treaty of 1921. A correspondent, whose letter we print on a later page, rightly deprecates hasty prejudgment of issues awaiting responsible solution; but while we agree with his view that there may be a case for "revision by mutual consent"—and this applies not only to the Oath, but to the Treaty as a whole—Mr De Valera will obviously risk impairing the amicable relations between Great Britain and the Free State, to the mutual injury of both parties, if he bases his attitude in regard to the land purchase annuities on the crude assertion, "What we have we hold." Mr De Valera must either submit a legal claim to legal test, or accept the stigma of repudiation, with its grave reactions on the credit of his country.

THE QUARTER'S OVERSEAS TRADE.

The March returns of overseas trade reflect somewhat violently, as was to be expected, on the imports side the after-effects of forestalling in anticipation of the 10 per cent. tariff imposed on March 1st. Compared with February, total imports are down by £9.1 millions, while exports are £1.2 millions higher, the adverse balance of trade on merchandise account being thus reduced from £34.8 millions to £24.5 millions. Comparison with the figures of March, 1931, is affected probably to some extent—though it is believed that the returns exclude for the most part entrances and clearances later than the 25th of any month—by the fact that Easter fell this year in March and last year in April. Thus, the March figures, which we tabulate below, furnish a less informative guide to the trend of our overseas trade than the subjoined figures giving comparative totals for the first quarter of the past three years:—

MONTH OF MARCH.
(000's omitted.)

	1932.	Increase or Decrease as compared with March, 1931.		Increase or Decrease as compared with March, 1930.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	61,119	− 9,482	− 13·4	− 32,330	− 34·6
British exports	31,196	− 2,793	− 8·2	− 23,759	− 43·2
Re-exports	5,424	− 14	...	− 2,236	− 29·2
Total exports	36,620	− 2,808	− 7·1	− 24,995	− 40·5
Excess of imports over total exports	24,499	− 6,674	− 21·4	− 7,344	− 23·1

FIRST QUARTER.
(000's omitted.)

	1932.	Increase or Decrease as compared with March, 1931.		Increase or Decrease as compared with March, 1930.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	193,418	− 16,394	− 7·8	− 99,087	− 31·8
British exports	92,331	− 11,915	− 10·6	− 71,901	− 43·9
Re-exports	16,115	− 1,213	− 7·0	− 8,365	− 34·2
Total exports	108,446	− 13,128	− 10·1	− 80,167	− 42·5
Excess of imports over total exports	84,970	− 4,156	− 4·7	− 9,920	− 10·8

Practically the whole of the £9.5 millions reduction in imports recorded last month fell in the category of articles "wholly or mainly manufactured." Smaller imports of iron and steel represent probably a natural reaction from previous forestalling rather than the 10 per cent. duties' powers of exclusion, but over the range of manufactured articles covered by the 50 per cent. Abnormal Import Duties the contraction, as compared with a year ago, is enormous. For example, the value of cotton yarns and manufactures imported fell by comparison with March, 1931, from £737,000 to £78,000, and that of wool textile imports from £1,207,000 to £146,000.

Turning now to the totals for the quarter, it will be seen that the combined effects of the "protective factors"—tariffs plus a depreciation of sterling, which gives, in relation to "gold" countries, a "shelter" of nearly 100 per cent. in the case of "abnormal" imports and of nearly 50 per cent. on goods covered by the 10 per cent. tariff—have resulted, in conjunction with general world trade depression, in producing no very striking change, so far, in our visible balance of payments. Including movements of bullion and specie, the excess of imports over total exports in the first quarter of this year amounted to approximately £80 millions, as compared with £82 millions a year ago. It should, however, be noted that in March—i.e., after the reaction from February forestalling and the imposition of the 10 per cent. tariff—the adverse merchandise balance had fallen to a level nearly £9 millions below the monthly average of over £33 millions last year. This enormous change in the balance of payments, with all its attendant repercussions on the economy of other countries, scarcely suggests the need of additional fiscal devices designed to "correct by a slimming process" our foreign trading account. Indeed, comparison with the corresponding figures for the first quarter of the past two years, as set forth in the table above, reveals with tragic clarity the impoverishing contraction which has taken place on both sides of the ledger.

As an aid to further elucidation of the position we give in the next table an analysis of the past quarter's figures divided into different classes:—

RETAINED IMPORTS AND BRITISH EXPORTS BY CLASSES.
(£'s million.)

	Retained Imports. First Quarter.			British Exports. First Quarter.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Food, drink and tobacco	114·1	93·2	90·8	12·3	9·5	8·3
Raw materials and articles mainly manufactured	67·1	39·0	41·7	18·7	11·6	10·6
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	75·0	67·7	42·6	128·4	78·4	70·1

As compared with a year ago, the changes in values, respectively, of imports of foodstuffs and raw materials approximately cancel out. In the first-named group the chief features which emerge from a study of the detailed figures are (1) an increase of some 10 per cent. in the volume of our wheat imports—larger shipments from Argentina, Australia and Canada outweighing heavy reductions in purchases from Russia and the United States—accompanied by a rise from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 4d. in the average cost per hundredweight; (2) a rise of over 20 per cent. in the volume of maize imports without appreciable change in the average value per hundredweight, the additional supplies coming from the Argentine; (3) a fall of £3 millions in the case of meat imports approximately unchanged in volume, the saving being due mainly to lower prices for imported beef; (4) a large increase, owing to the dearth of home supplies, in potato imports; (5) an increase of five million tons in volume and of £2 millions in value in respect of unrefined sugar imports; (6) a fall, at the expense mainly of the United States, of 14 million pounds weight in imports of tobacco, at a saving of £1.6 millions in cost.

Among raw materials the chief changes, as compared with a year ago, are to be found in a large increase, at lower value per pound, in the volume of imports of raw cotton, together with a substantial expansion in our pu-

chases of wood pulp and hides, as compared with a striking reduction in our imports of raw rubber. In the "wholly or mainly manufactured" group our imports of iron and steel (these, of course, are predominantly "semis") fell from 609,000 to 556,000 tons, but this would appear to represent a continuance of the progressive decline in the "capital investment" industries rather than a consequence of the 10 per cent. tariff, though forestalling in February, particularly in the case of Belgian tinplate bars, may have swollen to some extent the 1932 totals. For the rest, the volume of our imports of non-ferrous metals has been fairly well maintained as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, while, as already stated, the Abnormal Import Duties have nearly effaced from the trade map our imports of manufactured cotton and wool textiles. For example, as compared with the first quarter of 1931, cotton piece-goods imports fell from 11.8 to 0.6 million square yards, while our imports of woollen and worsted tissues from the Continent dropped from 10 million to 1.4 million square yards. Similar contraction is to be found in our imports of apparel, whose value fell from £5.1 millions to £1.9 millions, electrical goods, cutlery and hardware. By contrast, the value and volume of our machinery imports showed only an insignificant contraction. We conclude this side of our survey with comparative figures of the retained volume of certain leading imports:—

RETAINED IMPORTS.

		First Quarter.		
		1930.	1931.	1932.
Wheat	cwts.	20,272,473	21,874,697	23,487,637
Beef	cwts.	2,830,298	3,069,167	2,834,409
Sugar	cwts.	6,969,676	7,054,015	11,813,453
Iron ore	tons	1,335,200	598,097	505,453
Raw cotton	centals	3,786,438	2,781,584	3,393,246
Sheep and lambs' wool	centals	1,973,056	2,213,348	2,299,276
Raw silk	lbs.	511,723	480,085	524,409
Flax, hemp and jute	tons	104,142	69,495	108,687
Wood and timber, sawn, soft	loads	577,562	370,080	347,461
Rubber	centals	808,973	796,400	309,292
Crude petroleum	thousand galls.	101,481	108,141	81,385
Wood pulp	tons	333,932	309,446	466,110
Hides, wet and dry	cwts.	281,354	278,222	314,720

That tariff duties, coupled with the lower exchange value of the pound, should have resulted in a sharp curtailment of manufactured imports was so much a foregone conclusion that greater interest attaches to an endeavour to seek such inferences as may be drawn from the export side of our trade accounts. From the above table analysing classes, it will be seen that the bulk of the 10 per cent. decline recorded, in comparison with the first quarter of 1931, fell in the "wholly or mainly manufactured" group. The shrinkage in our relatively small exports of food, drink and tobacco is generally indicative of consumers' enforced economies throughout the world. In the raw materials section the predominant part is naturally played by our shipments of coal. Here a total decline of one million tons, as compared with 1931, was due, in the main, to a fall of 700,000 tons in sales to France. Italy, Belgium and Germany also curtailed their purchases of British coal to a minor extent, whereas some ground was regained, to the exclusion presumably of our "gold" competitors, in the Scandinavian and Brazilian markets.

From a study of the manufactured group of exports several features of interest emerge. The total value of iron and steel exports, at £7.1 millions, as compared with £8 millions a year ago, contrasts very unfavourably with £15.6 millions recorded in the first quarter of 1930, but some qualified encouragement on a comparison with the gloomy first year is to be derived from signs of revival in exports to India in galvanised sheets, while shipments of tinplates to China and Japan, the Straits Settlements, Australia and to Scandinavia all showed a welcome expansion. Proceeding from iron and steel to machinery we find that exports in the aggregate were also fairly well maintained, as compared with 1931, though the impoverishment of the primary producing countries was reflected in considerably lessened sales of agricultural and electrical machinery. With regard to the cotton industry, an interesting development is an appreciable increase in exports of yarn to Germany, but the picture is dominated, so far as cotton textiles are concerned, by the notable increase in sales of piece-goods to China, which absorbed 42 million square yards, as compared with less than 14 million square yards a year ago—a striking reflection of the indirect advantage to Lancashire of the Japanese boycott in China. Shipments to Hong Kong, India, Australia, British West Africa and Egypt also rose substantially, and there was an improvement in trade with Scandinavia. On the other hand, the effects of the financial crisis operating in various ways on different countries are to be seen in a curtailment of our sales to distressed countries, such as Greece, Turkey and the Argentine, while even the United States' purchases showed a fall. Moreover, though the total value of the quarter's cotton piece-goods exports amounted to £11.3 millions, as compared with £10.3 millions a year ago, it was still only half the value recorded in the first three months of 1930. In wool textiles the trend was similar. Germany and Scandinavia bought a larger quantity of tops and worsted yarns, while exports of woollen and worsted tissues were well maintained for Scandinavian destinations, but fell sharply both to the United States, Central Europe and primary producing countries overseas. The total value of wool exports, at £6.6 millions, compared with £7.4 millions a year ago and £12.2 millions in the first quarter of 1930. To conclude with a type of exports which is highly sensitive to changes in the flow of capital investment abroad, "vehicles," which includes locomotives, railway wagons, etc., as well as motor cars and ships, showed a fall of nearly 50 per cent., as compared with a year ago, this result being indicative mainly of the cessation of railway development and replacement in South America and in India. A quantitive list of leading exports is appended:—

SOME LEADING EXPORTS.

		First Quarter.		
		1930.	1931.	1932.
Coal	tons	15,012,511	10,416,201	9,471,811
Pig iron and ferro-alloys	tons	106,771	48,419	32,933
Railway material	tons	127,062	47,047	19,649
Total iron and steel	tons	983,847	481,187	473,517
Textile machinery	tons	26,681	12,287	16,415
Total machinery	tons	131,421	89,181	34,114
Cotton yarns	lbs.	38,106,500	31,403,600	43,673,500
Cotton piece-goods	sq. yds.	894,046,100	438,416,300	562,930,600
Wool tops	centals	71,332	70,943	114,875
Woollen tissues	sq. yds.	25,572,200	16,754,700	14,496,500
Worsted tissues	sq. yds.	11,409,900	9,055,800	8,101,400
Linen piece-goods	sq. yds.	19,703,000	16,439,800	19,461,400
Boots and shoes	doz. pairs	230,938	161,166	155,088
Leather	cwts.	71,963	37,438	38,613
Paper and cardboard	cwts.	1,217,242	796,166	957,685
Locomotives	tons	11,286	8,517	1,158
Motor cars and chassis	number	8,789	6,529	9,304

To sum up, such evidence as is furnished by the past quarter's returns of our export trade suggests that in maintaining an average monthly figure slightly over £30 millions we are indebted to the depreciation of sterling for an ability to acquire a slightly increasing proportion of a diminishing world quantum of international trade. The fall in the pound, however, appears to have been less effective in stimulating purchases from us by countries still actually, or nominally, remaining on the gold standard, than in diverting to our market from other "non-gold" countries a greater proportion of purchases which those countries formerly made in "gold" markets. Poverty of consumers in the primary producing countries, coupled with pressure directed by the Governments of externally indebted nations towards restriction of imports has stood, and seems likely increasingly to stand, in the way of any notable expansion of the exports on whose development—and not on further contraction of our imports—the restoration of real industrial prosperity in this country depends.

THE CRISIS IN GREECE.

(BY OUR ATHENS CORRESPONDENT.)

UNTIL the summer of 1931 Greece had not felt acutely the effects of the world crisis. Production and trade were, naturally, being affected to an increasing degree; but, on the whole, the country was facing the storm fairly well, while the situation of the public finances remained satisfactory. Last summer's intensification of the crisis, however, followed by the abandonment of the gold standard in Great Britain, brought a sudden and dramatic change in the situation. In order to understand the causes of the present difficulties of the country, it is necessary to remember that Greece had always a considerable passive balance of trade, which, normally, was covered by the "invisible" export items, chiefly the remittances of Greek emigrants and the profits of the merchant marine; and that the population has increased from 5,016,889 in 1920 to 6,397,000 in 1930—this increase including over a million of destitute refugees from Asia Minor.

Before the war a continuous stream of emigration to overseas countries—principally to the U.S.A. and Canada—procured a double benefit to the country, by relieving it of its surplus population, and by increasing the national income through the important sums regularly sent home by the thrifty emigrants. With the end of the war, however, the flow of Greek emigrants to other countries practically ceased. In addition, an abnormal increase of the population took place suddenly by the arrival of the refugees. The authorities were thus confronted with the extremely difficult and urgent problem of settling these newcomers and giving them the means of subsistence, and, moreover, of providing for the annual growth of the population, which could no longer be exported abroad.

To solve this problem the settlement of the refugees was combined with the execution of a big programme of productive public works. The necessary funds were raised chiefly by means of external loans, in addition to appropriations from the ordinary Budget of the State and large issues of internal bonds distributed to exchanged refugees and other sufferers from the war. These bonds represented partly the value of immovable property under liquidation, left by the exchanged Turks, and partly a direct liability of the State. The programme of productive works included the reclamation of large areas of land and the construction of roads. By means of these works and, more generally, the economic reconstruction of the country started after the war, it was and is still hoped that the national income, especially from agriculture, will rise to such an extent that not only will it be possible to maintain the increased population, but also to raise the standard of living of the people which is, indeed, very low.

Unfortunately, the world crisis broke out before the completion of this programme. The fall of prices brought, it is true, a partial relief to Greece by diminishing the unfavourable balance of trade from £16,700,000 (gold) in 1929 to £12,829,000 (gold) in 1931. But, on the other hand, the invisible credit items diminished too. Consequently, for the last three years, the gap in the balance of international payments of the country—even after allowing for the inward movement of capital in the form of foreign loans and credits—was filled from the gold and foreign exchange reserves of the Bank of Greece, which fell from Drs. 4,240 millions at the end of 1928, to Drs. 3,115 millions at the end of 1929, Drs. 3,011 millions at the end of 1930, Drs. 1,916 millions on December 31st last, and Drs. 985 millions on March 31st of this year.

The crisis of last summer in Great Britain and other countries brought, as stated, a sudden change in the financial situation of Greece. On the one hand, the principal source—London—from which capital was drawn for the construction of public works and the importation of goods from abroad was closed. On the other hand, owing to the restrictive measures imposed on foreign exchange operations and the movement of capital, enacted for the purpose of protecting national currencies, the already heavily reduced invisible items of exports almost disappeared, what still remained of them leaking out of the country through free and illicit exchange markets. Hence the rapid decline in the cover of the circulation, which has assumed dangerous dimensions, especially in the last few months. This decline necessitated a corresponding decrease of circulation and credit, which, in conjunction with the lessened imports, consequent upon the restrictions on the grant of foreign exchange, and a continuous falling-off in exports, as a result of world-wide trade obstacles, accentuated the hitherto relatively small trade depression and created severe difficulties for the national finances. Indeed, with State expenditure not only incapable of readjustment, but even increasing owing to larger annual payments for the service of the public debt; with decreasing revenue, and prospects of still lower receipts from taxation, the Budget for the year 1931-32, originally estimated to close with a small surplus, will hardly balance, despite the utilisation of a reserve fund of 300 million drachmas, while the Budget of the new financial year 1932-33 is anticipated to show a deficit of not less than 1,800 million drachmas.

Thus the problem of Greece is twofold: a foreign exchange and a Budget problem. To meet the situation the Greek Government prepared a plan which it submitted to the three Governments represented on the International Financial Commission in Athens and to the Council of the League of Nations. A delegation of the Council, headed by Sir Otto Niemeyer, came to Athens in January at the request of the Government, and conducted a thorough investigation of the situation. Its findings were communicated to the Financial Committee of the League, convened in Paris last month.

Briefly summarised, the Greek plan provides for: (1) A foreign loan of $50,000,000, to be issued, with the assistance of the League, in four yearly instalments of $12,500,000 each. The proceeds of this loan, converted into drachmas, would be utilised for completing the productive works and improving the lands being reclaimed, which are expected to render their full yield—estimated at $28,000,000 per annum—in five years. At the same time, the foreign currencies representing the proceeds of the loan would strengthen the exchange reserve of the Bank of Greece. (2) A five years' moratorium on the sinking fund of the external debts of Greece. This would render possible a saving in public expenditure of 430 million drachmas annually, and a reduction of the debit side of the country's foreign accounts by some £700,000 to £800,000 (gold) yearly. (3) A restriction of imports from abroad to the extent of £7,000,000 (gold) per annum. (4) Postponement of annual payments of 300 million drachmas due, under the Protocol of Geneva, to the Bank of Greece and the National Bank of Greece, against the State debt to them, and compulsory conversion and unification of the internal debt, rendering possible an economy in Budget expenditure of 500 million drachmas yearly. (5) Further economy in expenditure of 575 millions per annum, mostly by cutting down expenses of administration. The combined effect of these measures would be to improve the balance of international payments by £10,300,000 (gold) yearly, covering the present deficit with a margin for a possible further reduction of exports; and to secure the equilibrium of the Budget. It should be added that there exist also private commercial foreign debts of about £5,000,000 (gold). The Government intends to pursue an arrangement allowing for their redemption by instalments spread over a long period.

After a thorough study of the problem and the suggestions of the Greek Government, the Financial Committee of the League made recommendations which were summarised in last week's *Economist*. But it will be observed that there is a serious divergence between the proposals of the Greek Government and the recommendations of the Committee.* Mr Venizelos will endeavour to obtain from the Council of the League acceptance of the Greek plan. Meanwhile, and as from April 1st, payment of the sinking fund on the national debt, external and internal, has been suspended, while interest on the foreign loans is to be paid in full with the exception of the loans contracted in pounds, the coupon on which is payable

* The chief differences were two, namely: (a) the Committee suggested a foreign loan of not more than $10,000,000; (b) the Government proposed a moratorium of one year only on the sinking funds of the foreign loans.

hereafter in sterling and not in gold. The coupons on the internal loans, moreover, are reduced by 25 per cent. The Government has declared that, in case the Council of the League fails to satisfy its demands, and an immediate advance is not made to Greece, it will be unable to pay the coupons next due on external loans from the meagre reserve of the Bank of Greece. Should the Council of the League or the June Conference on Reparations not give a satisfactory solution to the Greek problem and repair the injustice done to Greece during and after the war, the Government intends to submit the whole question to arbitration, which will decide, according to a statement made by Mr Venizelos, "which proportion of the State's revenue may be appropriated for the service of the public debt without depriving the people of at least the elementary services which every civilised State should afford to its citizens, and without giving the means of a social overthrow to the enemies of social order by an exhaustion of the country's resources."

It is hoped here that the Council of the League will display a more accommodating spirit towards Greece than the Financial Committee has done. The presence of Mr Venizelos at the head of the Government is indispensable in the present circumstances, and constitutes a guarantee of order and stability in Greece, which is advisable from every point of view. If, as a result of an unfavourable solution of the Greek financial problem by the League of Nations, Mr Venizelos should resign or fail in the forthcoming general election—both of which contingencies are probable—the alternative might well be political instability, with all its concomitant evils, political, social and financial.

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

During the past quarter we have published the accounts of 548 industrial undertakings whose net profits, after payment of debenture interest, amounted in the aggregate to £54.3 millions, as compared with £63.4 millions earned in their previous year's working, a decrease of 14.3 per cent. These results are contrasted in the following table with those disclosed by reports published in the four previous quarters:—

Net Profits (after Payment of Debenture Interest, &c.).

	No. of Companies.	Reports Published in		Increase (+) or Decrease (−).	
		1930.	1931.		
		£	£	£	%
First quarter	896	75,816,474	67,736,226	− 8,080,248	−10·6
Second quarter	619	79,490,653	64,051,136	−15,439,517	−19·4
Third quarter	320	24,793,702	15,996,685	− 8,797,017	−35·5
Fourth quarter	474	25,460,390	12,292,859	−14,267,531	−53·9
Total	2,009	206,561,219	160,076,906	−46,584,313	−22·5
First quarter	548	1931. 63,403,727	1932. 54,314,815	− 9,088,912	−14·3

Superficially, the foregoing figures would appear to suggest that the accelerating decline in net profits which was recorded in 1931 has been checked. This conclusion, however, requires very considerable modification. It should be borne in mind that in the composition of our quarterly aggregates the "weighting" as between different types of enterprise varies greatly, *i.e.*, there may be a great divergence from quarter to quarter in the proportion borne to the total by capital whose earning power is more or less violently affected by changes in economic conditions. Thus, out of the total of £54.3 millions net profits shown in the first quarter of this year, no less than £17.1 millions were contributed by electricity and gas companies, shops and stores, tramways and waterworks. These forms of enterprise, whose earnings have been comparatively unscathed, so far, by the depression, contributed only £420,000 out of the £12.3 millions net profits revealed in the fourth quarter of 1931, when the decline in profits, as compared with a year before, amounted to nearly 54 per cent. Moreover, it will be observed from the next table, which analyses net profits in greater detail, that £26.9 millions of the past quarter's total was accounted for by the large miscellaneous group. Of this figure, nearly £13 millions was made up of the profits of four tobacco companies and six firms manufacturing patent foodstuffs, all of which succeeded in maintaining considerably greater stability of net earnings than the average industrial undertaking:—

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Head Office: 10 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4 Estd. 1836

Net Profits (after Payment of Debenture Interest, &c.).

	No. of Companies.	Reports published in Quarter ended Mar. 31		Increase.		Decrease.	
		1931.	1932.				
		£	£	£	%	£	%
Breweries	21	2,186,984	1,920,923	...	...	266,061	12·2
Electric lighting, &c.	29	6,725,584	6,765,126	39,542	0·6	...	...
Financial land	22	950,880	751,247	...	...	199,633	21·0
Gas	39	3,417,886	3,421,212	3,326	0·1	...	...
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	7	128,252	60,282	...	...	67,970	53·0
Iron, coal and steel	25	1,526,425	919,752	...	...	606,673	39·7
Motor and cycle	9	526,999	269,749	...	...	257,250	48·8
Rubber	37	*Dr.22,213*	*Dr117,934*	...	...	95,721	...
Shipping	8	294,683	217,277	...	...	77,406	26·3
Shops and stores	32	5,507,866	5,200,631	...	...	307,235	5·6
Tea	1	175	170	...	...	5	2·9
Textiles	27	2,611,118	1,948,133	...	...	662,985	25·4
Tramways	10	921,938	933,535	11,597	1·2	...	...
Trust	62	5,167,822	4,385,159	...	...	782,663	15·1
Waterworks	18	772,689	782,758	10,069	1·3	...	...
Miscellaneous	201	32,686,639	26,856,795	...	...	5,829,844	17·8
Total	548	63,403,727	54,314,815	...	...	9,088,912	14·3

In contrast to the fractional increases in earnings shown by the electric light, gas, tramway and waterworks undertakings, there are to be noted the heavy declines in the profits of the iron, coal and steel group, motor and cycle manufacturing, textiles, shipping, and hotels and restaurants. In the case of the miscellaneous group, apart from the relatively good showing made, as stated, by firms catering for the smoker and the domestic table, a large range of fairly heavy percentage decreases was offset to some extent by the satisfactory results shown by a limited number of important concerns, such as Thomas Tilling, London Brick and Forders, Provincial Cinematographs, British Portland Cement, and British Insulated Cables.

Our next table shows the distribution of profits during the past five quarters:—

Distribution of Profits.

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.		Preference Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.	
1931.	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
First quarter	67,736,226	42,043,943	62·1	14,731,666	21·7	10,960,617	16·2
Second quarter	64,051,136	37,090,515	57·9	17,512,738	27·3	9,447,883	14·8
Third quarter	15,996,685	11,479,274	71·8	5,937,287	37·1	*Dr.1,419,876*	*Dr.8·9*
Fourth quarter	12,292,859	9,462,779	76·9	5,315,499	43·1	*Dr.3,485,419*	*Dr28·4*
Total	160,076,906	100,076,511	62·5	43,497,190	27·2	16,503,205	10·3
1932.							
First quarter	54,314,815	37,438,571	68·9	11,647,128	21·5	5,229,116	9·6

The allocation to reserve during the past three months compares favourably with that recorded in the two previous quarters. But here again the qualification has to be borne in mind that, of the companies whose reports are analysed in the first quarter of the year, an unusually large proportion normally consists of somewhat "sheltered" undertakings accustomed to "plough back" a safe proportion of their earnings. Moreover, not only has the reserve proportion fallen to 9.6 per cent., as compared with 16.2 per cent. a year ago and 18.4 per cent. in the first quarter of 1930, but, as may be seen from the next table, the net total of £5.2 millions put

" back into the business " represents a balance struck from widely different sectional experience:—

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.		Preference Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.	
	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
Breweries	1,930,923	1,019,079	53·1	386,487	20·1	515,357	26·8
Elect. lighting, &c.	6,765,126	2,785,476	41·2	1,294,627	19·1	2,685,023	39·7
Financial, land, &c.	751,247	544,181	72·4	188,703	25·1	18,363	2·5
Gas	3,421,212	2,928,637	85·6	403,130	11·8	89,445	2·6
Hotels, restaurants, &c. ...	60,282	43,566	72·2	28,258	46·9	*Dr. 11,542*	*Dr.19·1*
Iron, coal and steel	919,752	460,715	50·1	226,910	24·7	232,127	25·2
Motor and cycle	269,749	75,500	28·0	96,197	35·7	98,052	36·3
Rubber	*Dr117,934*	6,565	...	668	...	*Dr125,167*	...
Shipping.....	217,277	97,883	45·1	29,562	13·6	89,832	41·3
Shops and stores	5,200,631	2,916,760	56·1	1,615,701	31·1	668,170	12·8
Tea	170	Nil	...	163	95·9	7	4·1
Textiles	1,948,133	1,906,230	97·8	1,033,759	53·1	*Dr991,856*	*Dr.50·9*
Tramways	933,535	491,758	52·7	154,715	16·6	287,062	30·7
Trusts	4,385,159	2,410,251	55·0	1,554,640	35·4	420,268	9·6
Waterworks ...	782,758	489,543	62·5	246,376	31·4	47,839	6·1
Miscellaneous...	26,856,795	21,262,427	79·2	4,388,232	16·3	1,206,136	4·5
Total ...	54,314,815	37,438,571	68·9	11,647,128	21·5	5,229,116	9·6

Consistent adherence to principles of conservative finance is again exemplified by breweries, electric light companies, iron, coal and steel concerns, motor and cycle companies, shipping lines, and tramways. The allocation, however, of only 4.5 per cent. to reserve by the miscellaneous group, as compared with 12.4 per cent. a year ago, is noteworthy; while a strikingly heavy draft on accumulated resources was made by the group of textile companies. It should, however, be appreciated in this connection that the £2.9 millions of dividends paid out by this group were in fact earned by the dividend-distributing units, the debit on reserve allocation account representing broadly the losses made and carried forward by companies which actually distributed no dividend.

We print on page 882 of this issue our usual tables showing the ratio of net profits and reserve allocations to total preference and ordinary capital, and also the average rates of debenture interest and preference and ordinary dividend. The ratio of net profits to capital in the past quarter was 8.2 per cent., as compared with 8.9 per cent. a year ago and 10.4 per cent. in the first quarter of 1930, while the ratio of amounts reserved was 0.8 per cent., as compared with 1.4 per cent. and 1.9 per cent. respectively in the corresponding quarters of the past two years. The average rate of ordinary dividend works out at 8.7 per cent., as compared with 8.5 per cent. a year ago and 10 per cent. in the first quarter of 1930. But this result was due predominantly to the relatively high rate of distribution maintained in the miscellaneous group, at the expense, be it said, of reducing to somewhat slender dimensions its reserve allocation.

Notes of the Week.

Lord Grey and Tariffs.—Lord Grey of Fallodon made one of his all too rare public appearances last week, and in a speech delivered at the annual meeting of the Liberal Council roundly condemned tariffs and trade barriers as a leading cause of the world's present discontent. " Circumstances," said Lord Grey, " are always changing, but certain truths remain true, and one of them, which is the foundation of Free Trade principles, is that trade is exchange. The Protectionist policy is to try to stimulate exports by shutting out imports. Exports are purchased by imports, and if we refuse imports we destroy the opportunity of other countries to purchase our exports." Having asserted these principles, Lord Grey turned to a review of the plight to which European nations had been reduced by tariff strangulation of commerce, and in apposite and timely phrases asked whether the medicine of freer trade, which was being prescribed for the Danubian countries, was not equally suitable to the rest of the world. The new British tariff received its full share of Lord Grey's censure. He denied that, except in a few special constituencies, the last general election gave a verdict for permanent Protection, and complained that, while Mr Runciman and Mr Baldwin were calling the new tariff " an experiment," Mr Chamberlain unashamedly introduced it as a complete reversal of the fiscal system of the country. Yet, in spite of his obviously full appreciation of the fiscal position, Lord Grey approves of the decision of the " dissentient " Liberal Ministers to remain in the Government. His main reason for holding this view appears to be his belief that, had they left the Government, the new tariff would have been even worse than it is. It was easy to say, some months ago, that by their presence in the Cabinet the Liberal Ministers would be able to exert a restraining influence upon the Protectionist propensities of their colleagues. But to-day we search in vain for proof that such pressure, if exerted, has been effective. Nor, apparently, is Lord Grey himself hopeful of the service which Liberal Ministers can give inside the Government to the cause of low tariffs. " We are not a very high Protectionist country yet," said Lord Grey, " but there are tendencies towards our becoming so." We see no reason for believing that Sir Herbert Samuel and Sir Donald Maclean, in a hopeless minority in the Council chamber, can do much to check these tendencies; while, on the other hand, it is certainly arguable that, by leaving the Government on this fundamental issue of a complete reversal of our fiscal system, they would stimulate and rally all the forces in this country which still believe that a liberal economic policy is essential to the well-being of Britain.

The Dominions and Ottawa.—Scarcely a week goes by now without some important pronouncement from the Dominions upon the character and possibilities of Imperial preference. From Australia, which has exposed in painful practice the fallacies of protection, now comes timely exposure of some of the futilities commonly regarded as truth among the economic Imperialists of this country. Speaking on Tuesday to a Chamber of Agriculture Convention, Mr Hawker, Minister of Markets, said that the Commonwealth's surplus wheat and wool must find markets outside the Empire, since the whole demand of Empire countries was less than the exportable surplus of Australia and her fellow-Dominions. An Imperial quota for wheat which did not raise the price to British consumers would merely dislocate trade and damage the hard-won trade relations of the Dominions with other countries without increasing the return to their own farmers. The Australian Government, therefore, did not intend to encumber its case at Ottawa by seeking preference on wool or wheat but would concentrate on tariff concessions for meat and dairy produce. It is remarkable that enthusiasm for a Dominion wheat quota, which has been rampant in Great Britain, should not be shared by the supposed beneficiaries; for it is equally well realised among Canadian grain merchants, if not among the farmers themselves, that neither tariff preference nor quota could raise the *world* price of wheat, which in competitive conditions they must accept. As for meat, which Mr Hawker described as " the key commodity at Ottawa," he mentioned the difficulties associated with British investments in the Argentine, but is not reported to have pointed out that the beef which we buy from the Argentine is chilled, and is therefore essentially a different product from Australian beef, which comes to us in the less attractive frozen form. From Canada, too, we have lately heard some home truths. Colonel Ralston, who is regarded by many as a potential successor to Mr Mackenzie King, declared recently that the " Canada First " policy of the Bennett Government had shut out imports, decreased employment, and maintained high prices. He criticised the Government for failing to make a fine gesture on the eve of the Ottawa Conference by embodying in the Budget reciprocal tariff concessions for the benefit of British goods in return for the advantages conferred by the British tariff. This speech is important as indicating that the Canadian Liberal party, which in the past has been a little doubtful about the merits of Imperial preference, now intends, if it can, to use it wholeheartedly as a means of getting tariffs down. For our own part we are convinced that unless that is, on balance, its effect it can be of no advantage either to Great Britain or to the Dominions.

Hindenburg's Victory.—The second ballot in the German Presidential Election has resulted—as was a foregone conclusion—in the victory of President Hindenburg. The cost in casualties (four killed and about ten injured, throughout Germany, on election day) must be accounted light; and it is a piece of good fortune that the attempt, which was made the night before, to assassinate the President of the Reichsbank, Dr. Luther, when he was taking the train from Berlin for Basle, was unsuccessful. It remains to consider what the real significance of last Sunday's election figures may be—or, rather, what their significance may appear to be in German eyes; for this subjective aspect of the election figures is the aspect which is likely to have a practical effect upon the outcome of the now imminent general election for the Prussian Landtag. The total poll last Sunday was 36,589,000—little more than a million less than the 37,647,115 votes that were cast at the first ballot on March 13th. Out of this hardly less representative total vote, President Hindenburg this time has secured a decisive majority over all other candidates together. He has received 19,367,000 votes, whereas Herr Hitler and the Communist Herr Thälmann between them have only received 17,122,000. This gives President Hindenburg a clear absolute majority of 2,245,000 votes on the second ballot, whereas he just failed to secure an absolute majority on the first ballot. Considering that, on the second ballot, a mere plurality over any other single candidate is all that is required, President Hindenburg may be considered in one sense to have won a handsome victory. But there is another side to the picture. For President Hindenburg has only increased the absolute figure of the votes cast for him by just over 700,000, whereas Herr Hitler has risen by nearly 1,888,000 votes, from 11,339,285 to 13,177,000. If it is true that the decline in the total poll is mainly due to the abstention of Communist voters who did not feel it worth while to vote again for Herr Thälmann, then the figures indicate that Hitler has succeeded in winning about 72 per cent., and Hindenburg only about 28 per cent., of the 2,557,590 votes which were cast at the first ballot for the Nationalist candidate, Colonel Düsterberg, who refrained from standing again and whose votes were therefore the principal prize contended for last Sunday. Does this portend that nearly three-quarters of the Nationalists in Germany will line up, henceforth, behind the Hitlerites? If so, it is a considerable success for Herr Hitler.

The Prussian Elections.—The next question of international political moment is how the Hitlerite Party will fare in the forthcoming elections for the Prussian Diet on April 24th. Prophecies in the existing political conditions of Germany are more than normally dangerous, but a study of the Presidential voting suggests that the Nazis will probably return in numbers not far short of those of the middle *bloc* on which the Prussian Government now depends for its support. In so far as the Communists are prepared to vote with them, they may thus be able to exercise a decisive power of veto; much obviously turns on how public opinion reacts to the Reich's Government's drastic step taken last Wednesday in proclaiming by Presidential Decree the dissolution of Hitler's Storm Troops. In any case, since the Communists would presumably not consider forming a coalition Government with Herr Hitler, the election is unlikely to result in the actual supersession of the present Administration; for a Bill which the Prussian Diet passed on Tuesday makes it necessary for any future Prime Minister to be elected by an absolute majority, instead of his election being, as hitherto, from the party with the largest number of seats.

The Far Eastern Deadlock.—Once again procrastination and tortuous diplomatic manœuvres are threatening to defeat the organised efforts of the world to find a solution for the Far Eastern conflict. It is the same story in Manchuria and at Shanghai. At Shanghai the armistice negotiations which have been carried on for weeks past through neutral good offices finally broke down last Monday. As for Manchuria, the Lytton Commission's itinerary has been held up by the refusal of the puppet Government of Manchukuo to allow the Commission's Chinese assessor, Mr Wellington Koo, to set foot on Manchurian territory. Lord Lytton has rightly and naturally pointed out that the Chinese and Japanese assessors are an integral part of the Commission's personnel, and that a refusal to admit Mr Koo is tantamount to a refusal to admit the Commission itself. Now the resolution of the Council of the League of Nations, setting up the Commission and defining its duties, bears the signature of Japan as well as of the other States Members of the Council; but though Japan now says that she will do all in her power to ensure Mr Koo's safety, she will not ask the Government of Manchuria to remove its ban. Thus, once again, Japan is hampering the work of the League. At Geneva she accepts the League Commission; but in Manchuria she connives at action designed to prevent it functioning effectively. Again the Shanghai armistice negotiations have now broken down because the Japanese negotiators on the spot have insisted upon conditions involving permanent alterations in the regime at Shanghai, whereas the Janapese representatives at Geneva had agreed to an unconditional withdrawal—subject only to temporary arrangements for controlling the movements of military forces on either side until such time as the Japanese withdrawal should be complete. Thus the Japanese are now displaying an intention of digging themselves in at Shanghai for an indefinite period. What is the world going to do about it? Clearly it is time for the League Assembly's Committee of Nineteen to meet again.

The Disturbances in Newfoundland.—What is the status of Newfoundland? Its obscurity is indicated by the fact that, in the official parlance of Downing Street, the place is usually described, non-committally, as "the Island of Newfoundland," in subtle distinction from the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Irish Free State, etc., etc. At Imperial Conferences, Newfoundland is represented side by side with the four great self-governing Dominions. On the other hand, she does not share with the Dominions and India the privilege of being a State member, in her own right, of the League of Nations. At this moment, her finances are out of the hands of her own Government and under the control of a United Kingdom official from the Treasury in Whitehall; but this somewhat drastic suspension of the normal working of Dominion self-government in Newfoundland has not been sufficient, or not been in time, to avert a popular *émeute* against the local Government. At a public meeting which was held at St. John's on Monday, April 5th, and was attended by representatives of all classes, professions and religions, unanimous resolutions were passed demanding a proper investigation of certain grave charges that have been brought against members of the Newfoundland Cabinet. The resolutions were carried next day to the House of Assembly by a crowd 10,000 strong; and when there was a delay in receiving the deputation which was to present the resolutions, the crowd broke loose, overpowered the police, sacked the basement of the Parliament Building, besieged the Cabinet in the upper storeys, and mauled the Prime Minister, Sir Richard Squires, when he attempted to make a "get-away" after dark. Thereupon the Prime Minister and the Chief of Police took refuge in a private house, where they were sheltered by a screen of four clergymen until they were able to escape from the back door in disguise. The crowd consoled itself for their escape by attacking the principal Government liquor depôt in the capital. A British warship has now been sent to Newfoundland from the West Indies station to preserve order. These events in a North American island last week are reminiscent, in certain respects, of the disturbances which occurred in a Levantine island—likewise belonging to the British Empire—last October. In the circumstances, an ingenious pair of Colonial and

Dominions Secretaries of State at Westminster might perhaps be tempted to deal at one stroke with two unrestful islands by the operation which chess players call "castleing." Why not give Newfoundland and Cyprus an interchange of regimes: for Cyprus, Dominion self-government; for Newfoundland, the present dispensation in Cyprus? Both islands might benefit by the change, and the British Empire benefit doubly into the bargain!

The Law and the Sabbath.—Unless Parliament passes new legislation in the meanwhile, the Sunday opening of cinemas, concert halls, museums and other homes of entertainment will cease in the first week in October. Such a compulsory relapse into the old Sabbatarianism would clearly not be tolerated by public opinion to-day, and legislation is therefore generally regarded as necessary. Mr Clynes introduced a Bill last year which would have solved the problem for the time being, but the fall of the Labour Government and the arrival of the national crisis caused that Bill to be dropped. This week the Under-Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Oliver Stanley, introduced a new measure, on the merits of which the House of Commons showed a sharp cleavage of opinion; and on a free vote the second reading was only carried by the narrow margin of 18. This is surprising, since Mr Stanley's Bill is not of a compulsory nature, but provides for local option to be exercised by local authorities. Even if the Bill be passed, no part of England need have Sunday entertainments unless it wishes to have them. Part of the opposition comes from religious bodies and represents the large volume of opinion which is scared by any approach towards the "Continental Sunday." Another part comes from the owners and promoters of entertainments which are not legalised by this measure. To the former section three questions may be put: Is it right for the law to deny to hundreds of thousands of people the chance of employing part of their weekly day of leisure in recreation outside irksome surroundings or overcrowded homes? Do they not trust local councils to interpret the wish of the majority? Again, if they regard this Bill as "the thin end of the wedge," do they not realise that that wedge will be inserted only in proportion to the demand of public opinion? As to the opposition of alternative entertainers, especially the theatres, it would seem to be short-sighted. It is certainly arguable that it is unjust to the theatres to withhold from them the facilities allowed to cinemas. But we do not hold, with Sir Alfred Butt, that that is a sufficient reason for wrecking the present Bill and producing an intolerable position. Theatre owners, surely, would be wiser to assist the passage of this Bill and remember that if and when there is evidence of a real public demand for Sunday theatres, Sunday opening facilities will doubtless be extended to them. An objection raised to Mr Stanley's Bill, from quite another angle, is that it is only one small bite at a very large cherry. There are those who regard the Bill as merely tinkering with a situation which demands complete and comprehensive overhauling. The answer to this contention is clear. The close voting at Westminster affords strong evidence that public opinion is not ripe for a complete revolution of our Sunday Observance Laws. But it is ready, in many parts of the country at any rate, for a step forward. Such a step, and a proper one, is made by Mr Stanley's Bill, and it should be passed to the Statute Book.

A Simian Conundrum.—How many legs has a monkey? This is no nursery riddle, but an actual business problem, which it falls to the lot of Mr Runciman to solve. An importer of monkeys into this country has just pleaded that, being quadrupeds, they are exempt from import duties; the officials at the port of landing argued that they were bipeds; and, on the matter being referred to the Board of Customs in London, the ruling was given that monkeys have no legs at all, only hands. An appeal against this scandalous charge of quadrumanuity has been lodged. At least, that is the story as told by a London newspaper which is by no means inclined to throw its searchlight on tariff absurdities. The final decision of this momentous question rests, we presume, with the President of the Board of Trade. Will he empanel an advisory committee of zoological professors? Or will he make a bold bid himself to interpret the mysteries of simian fiscality? Or will he take the line of least resistance and exempt the humble ape from his tariff altogether? By so doing he would offend no vested interest, for monkey-rearing in this country is not, as yet, a major industry. Of course, if simian dumping is really menacing the stability of the pound or if the imported monkey is officially deemed to be a luxury which, in these stern days, children and nut-sellers can forgo, then he will have to face the music and enrich the field of scientific knowledge by deciding

> On how many toes
> A marmoset goes.

Even then the President's mental strain will not be relaxed; for it is certain to be asked "What tax is due on a kangaroo?"

British Industry.—Sir James Lithgow, in his address as retiring President to members of the Federation of British Industries, was faced with an enjoyable task; for he was able to point out that the Federation's appeals for protection and national economy were at last being put into practice by the Government of the day. On the more controversial aspects of his address we need say but little, but we cannot accept his claim that those who opposed and still oppose protection should for the moment hold their peace. Protection is an experiment which, as many of its advocates will admit, requires careful watching, and we fail to see how Sir James can object to a close and critical study of its consequences. In fact, such objections suggest a lack of faith on his part in the efficacy of his remedy. On the question of national economy Sir James is on firmer ground, though his argument that "under no fiscal nor social system can productive industry act effectively as the medium for the exchange of the commodities which enable our people to live and at the same time support an annual budget of the order of those of recent years" is valid on psychological rather than economic grounds. His plea that the interests of the producer demand greater attention than they have so far received is one that might fittingly have been coupled with a still greater insistence upon the duty owed by British industry to the community. We agree with him that one of the chief needs of the moment is the restoration of the confidence of the prospective investor in British industry, and there may be some force in his argument that the conduct of industry is hampered by legislation and other regulations which may have found their origin in isolated instances of abuse. Even so, before it is possible to accept his plea that British industry should be given, legislatively, a free hand, we need more reassurance that those responsible for the conduct of our industries are able and willing to live up to the spirit of Sir James' address. Our industrial history of recent years is not entirely a happy one, nor can industrialists wholly blame others for their misfortunes. The real value of this speech is that it reminded industrialists that they have now a unique opportunity to put their houses in order. There is much that British industry can do to rehabilitate itself, both morally and materially. Unless it seizes the opportunity presented by the recent change in fiscal policy, and does not abuse it, then, to quote Sir James' own words, British industry will stand self-condemned.

The Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget.—Further information as to the relations of this bank with Kreuger finances was forthcoming at the adjourned annual meeting held on April 9th and is fully discussed in our Stockholm correspondent's letter on a later page. The relations began on November 27, 1930, with the sale by the bank to M. Kreuger of 50,000 Grangesberg shares at a price of Kr. 360. Between November, 1930, and February, 1931, the bank had granted to M. Kreuger loans and credits amounting to Kr. 180 millions, and a few weeks after the latter date the bank took up temporarily Kr. 80 millions of the Kr. 82 millions Polish Government loan placed on the Swedish market. In April, M. Kreuger asked for a further loan of $35 millions, to finance current operations in Germany. Had this loan been refused, there was grave

danger of an immediate collapse of the Kreuger interests, and in these circumstances the Riksbank promised the Skandinaviska Bank any necessary assistance in this matter. A fortnight later came the Credit-Anstalt collapse and the entry of the world crisis upon its acute stage, and it is easy to appreciate that from then onwards the bank had little hope of liquidating its commitments in this direction. M. Lauritzen, the Managing Director of the bank, informed the meeting that the collateral held by the bank was intrinsically satisfactory, and that the whole trouble was one of liquidity. At the same time he admitted that the bank might have to meet claims from foreign interests in respect of $50 millions of its collateral, and, while such claims were not believed to be well-founded, the whole situation is obviously still very insecure. At the same time, M. Lauritzen stated that the bank had only lent Kr. 10 to 12 millions on special Kreuger securities, and that the greater part of the collateral consisted of such securities as Roumanian, Hungarian and German State bonds which could fall to half their value before the bank would be affected. It was finally decided at the meeting that the Kr. 260 millions of bills rediscounted with the Riksbank should be entered in the year's balance-sheet, so that the full extent of the bank's obligations would be visible, and that the necessary adjustments be made in the profit and loss account and dividends. With these alterations the accounts were adopted.

The New South Wales Default.—Mr Lyons has been swift to take advantage of the High Court judgment upholding the validity of the Financial Agreement Enforcement Act. On April 7th he issued a proclamation authorising the attachment of the New South Wales income tax for the purpose of compensating the Commonwealth Government for its assumption of responsibility for the discharge of the external debt obligations of the defaulting State. Simultaneously, the Commonwealth Bank issued a notice directing individual income tax returns to be paid into its office at Sydney. Four days later the Commonwealth Government served notice on all banks in Australia requiring them to surrender to it all New South Wales Government credits. Mr Lang at once retaliated by closing the Sydney income-tax office, thereby suspending the work of issuing both Federal and State assessment notices, and by repudiating the agreement of 1928 which made the State the collecting authority for both State and Federal income tax. So far as can be told, this somewhat childish gesture will hardly possess even a nuisance value. New South Wales citizens are paying income tax to the Commonwealth authorities at a very satisfactory rate, and on April 11th the Commonwealth Government took further steps by issuing a proclamation attacking the betting, race-course, totalisator and entertainment taxes and also the revenue from the State railways and tramways. Mr Lang's reply to this further move was to issue orders that railway and tramway receipts are not to be handled by the banks but to be sent to Sydney from the country centres under armed guard. He apparently has the support of the tramway and railway officers' trade union in New South Wales. The State Government is also doing the best it can in face of the attachment of its revenue by settling its accounts in cash and orders on the Treasury instead of by cheque. The whole of this resistance, however, is obviously so futile that it is difficult to believe that it can be persisted in for long. In the meantime, the Premiers' Conference has assembled in Melbourne, and it has become clear that quite apart from New South Wales, the financial position of the Commonwealth is demanding urgent consideration, especially as the reduction in the Budget deficit to date has not kept pace with that anticipated in the Premier's plan of last year. Australian exchange and tariff policy will also have to be discussed, and in particular the respective arguments in favour of a high or low rate of exchange. At the moment, economic opinion in Australia favours a high (i.e., depreciated) rate, as calculated to assist Australian primary industries. The Banks, Under-Treasurers, with external obligations to meet, naturally take the contrary view.

Iron and Steel Production.—There is little evidence of the normal seasonal increase in activity in the production statistics for March, published this week by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers. The output of pig iron, at 335,600 tons, compares with 328,600 tons in February and is 21,500 tons below that of March, 1931. The number of furnaces in blast, however, has been increased from 71 at the end of February to 72 at the end of the past month. The output of steel declined from 480,600 tons in February to 462,800 tons in March, and is 37,300 tons lower than a year ago. In this connection, however, allowance has to be made for the incidence of the Easter holidays, which fell last year in April. British iron and steel prices remained substantially unchanged during March, but Continental quotations show a further decline. The London quotation (f.o.b. Antwerp) for sheet bars, at £2 18s. per ton, shows a reduction of 8s. per ton; steel bars declined from £3 11s. per ton to £3 2s. per ton; whilst joists, B.S., were offered at £3 3s. per ton at the end of March, against £3 11s. per ton a month earlier. As there has been no improvement in the principal consuming industries, it is improbable that the production of iron and steel will increase substantially during the current month.

The Shipbuilding Returns.—The shipbuilding statistics for the first quarter of this year, issued by *Lloyd's Register of Shipping*, established new low reords. The subjoined table shows work in hand and work commenced, at home and abroad, during each of the last five quarters:—

(Thousand Tons.)

	Work in Hand.		Work commenced.	
	United Kingdom.	Abroad.	United Kingdom.	Abroad.
1931—				
First quarter.....	693	1,306	33	209
Second quarter	556	1,271	23	211
Third quarter	417	1,114	39	134
Fourth quarter	400	1,003	105	120
1932—				
First quarter.....	373	925	26	55

The tonnage under construction in this country at the end of March was not much more than half that in hand at the same time last year, and this year's figure includes 165,000 tons on which work has been suspended. The decline in tonnage under construction abroad, though severe, is relatively less, and of the world total only 28.7 per cent. is at present being built in the United Kingdom. The figures for tonnage commenced, both at home and abroad, are evidence of the deplorable stagnation still prevalent in the industry. In this country the slight revival in new orders—entirely for small ships—placed last autumn has now "petered out," and the contraction in tonnage begun abroad has been progressive over the past fifteen months. The tonnage launched from British yards during the first three months of 1932, namely, 35,324 tons out of a world total of 125,000 tons, is the lowest ever recorded.

Cotton Trade Wages.—On Tuesday last, writes our Manchester correspondent, there was an important conference in Manchester of representatives of the cotton weaving employers and the operatives for the purpose of considering the wages question. The joint meeting was held at the request of the employers, who stated at the outset that they had decided to ask the trade unions if they were willing to discuss the question of wages in the manufacturing section of the industry with a view to reaching by agreement an all-round reduction, which they felt to be necessary in view of the continued loss of trade. The employers did not put forward a demand in specific terms nor did they suggest any figures of reduction. After considering the situation in private, the trade union officials informed the employers that the committees of the several unions would meet this week-end and a report would then be presented to the Council of the Northern Counties Textile Trades Federation on the following Tuesday, when their reply to the employers would be formulated. In trade circles there is not much hope that the representatives of the operatives will ultimately give

Dominions Secretaries of State at Westminster might perhaps be tempted to deal at one stroke with two unrestful islands by the operation which chess players call "castleing." Why not give Newfoundland and Cyprus an interchange of regimes: for Cyprus, Dominion self-government; for Newfoundland, the present dispensation in Cyprus? Both islands might benefit by the change, and the British Empire benefit doubly into the bargain!

The Law and the Sabbath.—Unless Parliament passes new legislation in the meanwhile, the Sunday opening of cinemas, concert halls, museums and other homes of entertainment will cease in the first week in October. Such a compulsory relapse into the old Sabbatarianism would clearly not be tolerated by public opinion to-day, and legislation is therefore generally regarded as necessary. Mr Clynes introduced a Bill last year which would have solved the problem for the time being, but the fall of the Labour Government and the arrival of the national crisis caused that Bill to be dropped. This week the Under-Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Oliver Stanley, introduced a new measure, on the merits of which the House of Commons showed a sharp cleavage of opinion; and on a free vote the second reading was only carried by the narrow margin of 18. This is surprising, since Mr Stanley's Bill is not of a compulsory nature, but provides for local option to be exercised by local authorities. Even if the Bill be passed, no part of England need have Sunday entertainments unless it wishes to have them. Part of the opposition comes from religious bodies and represents the large volume of opinion which is scared by any approach towards the "Continental Sunday." Another part comes from the owners and promoters of entertainments which are not legalised by this measure. To the former section three questions may be put: Is it right for the law to deny to hundreds of thousands of people the chance of employing part of their weekly day of leisure in recreation outside irksome surroundings or overcrowded homes? Do they not trust local councils to interpret the wish of the majority? Again, if they regard this Bill as "the thin end of the wedge," do they not realise that that wedge will be inserted only in proportion to the demand of public opinion? As to the opposition of alternative entertainers, especially the theatres, it would seem to be short-sighted. It is certainly arguable that it is unjust to the theatres to withhold from them the facilities allowed to cinemas. But we do not hold, with Sir Alfred Butt, that that is a sufficient reason for wrecking the present Bill and producing an intolerable position. Theatre owners, surely, would be wiser to assist the passage of this Bill and remember that if and when there is evidence of a real public demand for Sunday theatres, Sunday opening facilities will doubtless be extended to them. An objection raised to Mr Stanley's Bill, from quite another angle, is that it is only one small bite at a very large cherry. There are those who regard the Bill as merely tinkering with a situation which demands complete and comprehensive overhauling. The answer to this contention is clear. The close voting at Westminster affords strong evidence that public opinion is not ripe for a complete revolution of our Sunday Observance Laws. But it is ready, in many parts of the country at any rate, for a step forward. Such a step, and a proper one, is made by Mr Stanley's Bill, and it should be passed to the Statute Book.

A Simian Conundrum.—How many legs has a monkey? This is no nursery riddle, but an actual business problem, which it falls to the lot of Mr Runciman to solve. An importer of monkeys into this country has just pleaded that, being quadrupeds, they are exempt from import duties; the officials at the port of landing argued that they were bipeds; and, on the matter being referred to the Board of Customs in London, the ruling was given that monkeys have no legs at all, only hands. An appeal against this scandalous charge of quadrumanuity has been lodged. At least, that is the story as told by a London newspaper which is by no means inclined to throw its searchlight on tariff absurdities. The final decision of this momentous question rests, we presume, with the President of the Board of Trade. Will he empanel an advisory committee of zoological professors? Or will he make a bold bid himself to interpret the mysteries of simian fiscality? Or will he take the line of least resistance and exempt the humble ape from his tariff altogether? By so doing he would offend no vested interest, for monkey-rearing in this country is not, as yet, a major industry. Of course, if simian dumping is really menacing the stability of the pound or if the imported monkey is officially deemed to be a luxury which, in these stern days, children and nut-sellers can forgo, then he will have to face the music and enrich the field of scientific knowledge by deciding

> On how many toes
> A marmoset goes.

Even then the President's mental strain will not be relaxed; for it is certain to be asked "What tax is due on a kangaroo?"

British Industry.—Sir James Lithgow, in his address as retiring President to members of the Federation of British Industries, was faced with an enjoyable task; for he was able to point out that the Federation's appeals for protection and national economy were at last being put into practice by the Government of the day. On the more controversial aspects of his address we need say but little, but we cannot accept his claim that those who opposed and still oppose protection should for the moment hold their peace. Protection is an experiment which, as many of its advocates will admit, requires careful watching, and we fail to see how Sir James can object to a close and critical study of its consequences. In fact, such objections suggest a lack of faith on his part in the efficacy of his remedy. On the question of national economy Sir James is on firmer ground, though his argument that "under no fiscal nor social system can productive industry act effectively as the medium for the exchange of the commodities which enable our people to live and at the same time support an annual budget of the order of those of recent years" is valid on psychological rather than economic grounds. His plea that the interests of the producer demand greater attention than they have so far received is one that might fittingly have been coupled with a still greater insistence upon the duty owed by British industry to the community. We agree with him that one of the chief needs of the moment is the restoration of the confidence of the prospective investor in British industry, and there may be some force in his argument that the conduct of industry is hampered by legislation and other regulations which may have found their origin in isolated instances of abuse. Even so, before it is possible to accept his plea that British industry should be given, legislatively, a free hand, we need more reassurance that those responsible for the conduct of our industries are able and willing to live up to the spirit of Sir James' address. Our industrial history of recent years is not entirely a happy one, nor can industrialists wholly blame others for their misfortunes. The real value of this speech is that it reminded industrialists that they have now a unique opportunity to put their houses in order. There is much that British industry can do to rehabilitate itself, both morally and materially. Unless it seizes the opportunity presented by the recent change in fiscal policy, and does not abuse it, then, to quote Sir James' own words, British industry will stand self-condemned.

The Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget.—Further information as to the relations of this bank with Kreuger finances was forthcoming at the adjourned annual meeting held on April 8th and is fully discussed in our Stockholm correspondent's letter on a later page. The relations began on November 27, 1930, with the sale by the bank to M. Kreuger of 50,000 Grangesberg shares at a price of Kr. 360. Between November, 1930, and February, 1931, the bank had granted to M. Kreuger loans and credits amounting to Kr. 180 millions, and a few weeks after the latter date the bank took up temporarily Kr. 80 millions of the Kr. 82 millions Polish Government loan placed on the Swedish market. In April, M. Kreuger asked for a further loan of $35 millions, to finance current operations in Germany. Had this loan been refused, there was grave

danger of an immediate collapse of the Kreuger interests, and in these circumstances the Riksbank promised the Skandinaviska Bank any necessary assistance in this matter. A fortnight later came the Credit-Anstalt collapse and the entry of the world crisis upon its acute stage, and it is easy to appreciate that from then onwards the bank had little hope of liquidating its commitments in this direction. M. Lauritzen, the Managing Director of the bank, informed the meeting that the collateral held by the bank was intrinsically satisfactory, and that the whole trouble was one of liquidity. At the same time he admitted that the bank might have to meet claims from foreign interests in respect of $50 millions of its collateral, and, while such claims were not believed to be well-founded, the whole situation is obviously still very insecure. At the same time, M. Lauritzen stated that the bank had only lent Kr. 10 to 12 millions on special Kreuger securities, and that the greater part of the collateral consisted of such securities as Roumanian, Hungarian and German State bonds which could fall to half their value before the bank would be affected. It was finally decided at the meeting that the Kr. 260 millions of bills rediscounted with the Riksbank should be entered in the year's balance-sheet, so that the full extent of the bank's obligations would be visible, and that the necessary adjustments be made in the profit and loss account and dividends. With these alterations the accounts were adopted.

The New South Wales Default.—Mr Lyons has been swift to take advantage of the High Court judgment upholding the validity of the Financial Agreement Enforcement Act. On April 7th he issued a proclamation authorising the attachment of the New South Wales income tax for the purpose of compensating the Commonwealth Government for its assumption of responsibility for the discharge of the external debt obligations of the defaulting State. Simultaneously, the Commonwealth Bank issued a notice directing individual income tax returns to be paid into its office at Sydney. Four days later the Commonwealth Government served notice on all banks in Australia requiring them to surrender to it all New South Wales Government credits. Mr Lang at once retaliated by closing the Sydney income-tax office, thereby suspending the work of issuing both Federal and State assessment notices, and by repudiating the agreement of 1928 which made the State the collecting authority for both State and Federal income tax. So far as can be told, this somewhat childish gesture will hardly possess even a nuisance value. New South Wales citizens are paying income tax to the Commonwealth authorities at a very satisfactory rate, and on April 11th the Commonwealth Government took further steps by issuing a proclamation attacking the betting, race-course, totalisator and entertainment taxes and also the revenue from the State railways and tramways. Mr Lang's reply to this further move was to issue orders that railway and tramway receipts are not to be handled by the banks but to be sent to Sydney from the country centres under armed guard. He apparently has the support of the tramway and railway officers' trade union in New South Wales. The State Government is also doing the best it can in face of the attachment of its revenue by settling its accounts in cash and orders on the Treasury instead of by cheque. The whole of this resistance, however, is obviously so futile that it is difficult to believe that it can be persisted in for long. In the meantime, the Premiers' Conference has assembled in Melbourne, and it has become clear that quite apart from New South Wales, the financial position of the Commonwealth is demanding urgent consideration, especially as the reduction in the Budget deficit to date has not kept pace with that anticipated in the Premier's plan of last year. Australian exchange and tariff policy will also have to be discussed, and in particular the respective arguments in favour of a high or low rate of exchange. At the moment, economic opinion in Australia favours a high (*i.e.*, depreciated) rate, in order to assist Australian primary industries. The Under-Treasurers, with external obligations to meet, naturally take the contrary view.

Iron and Steel Production.—There is little evidence of the normal seasonal increase in activity in the production statistics for March, published this week by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers. The output of pig iron, at 385,600 tons, compares with 323,600 tons in February and is 21,500 tons below that of March, 1931. The number of furnaces in blast, however, has been increased from 71 at the end of February to 72 at the end of the past month. The output of steel declined from 480,600 tons in February to 462,800 tons in March, and is 37,300 tons lower than a year ago. In this connection, however, allowance has to be made for the incidence of the Easter holidays, which fell last year in April. British iron and steel prices remained substantially unchanged during March, but Continental quotations show a further decline. The London quotation (f.o.b. Antwerp) for sheet bars, at £2 18s. per ton, shows a reduction of 8s. per ton; steel bars declined from £3 11s. per ton to £3 2s. per ton; whilst joists, B.S., were offered at £3 3s. per ton at the end of March, against £3 11s. per ton a month earlier. As there has been no improvement in the principal consuming industries, it is improbable that the production of iron and steel will increase substantially during the current month.

The Shipbuilding Returns.—The shipbuilding statistics for the first quarter of this year, issued by *Lloyd's Register of Shipping*, established new low reords. The subjoined table shows work in hand and work commenced, at home and abroad, during each of the last five quarters:—

(Thousand Tons.)

	Work in Hand.		Work commenced.	
	United Kingdom.	Abroad.	United Kingdom.	Abroad.
1931—				
First quarter.....	693	1,306	33	209
Second quarter	556	1,271	23	211
Third quarter	417	1,114	39	134
Fourth quarter	400	1,003	105	120
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The tonnage under construction in this country at the end of March was not much more than half that in hand at the same time last year, and this year's figure includes 165,000 tons on which work has been suspended. The decline in tonnage under construction abroad, though severe, is relatively less, and of the world total only 28.7 per cent. is at present being built in the United Kingdom. The figures for tonnage commenced, both at home and abroad, are evidence of the deplorable stagnation still prevalent in the industry. In this country the slight revival in new orders—entirely for small ships—placed last autumn has now "petered out," and the contraction in tonnage begun abroad has been progressive over the past fifteen months. The tonnage launched from British yards during the first three months of 1932, namely, 35,324 tons out of a world total of 125,000 tons, is the lowest ever recorded.

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a satisfactory reply to the employers' statement. It will probably be urged that the slight benefit which might come to the industry as a result of lower wages would not affect the industry to a sufficient extent to remove the depression and bring about a trade revival. It is not unlikely that the trade union officials will state that in their opinion the difficulties of the present time are due to the absence of up-to-date methods in producing and distributing goods, and that the solution is to be found in wholesale reconstruction of the trade from the purchase of raw cotton to the selling of the manufactured article. It remains to be seen what further action is likely to be taken by the employers, but there will have to be much greater unanimity amongst the rank and file before a specific demand for a wages reduction can be made, as numerous employers are certainly not prepared to force an issue with the operatives.

The Sugar Beet Controversy.—The British Sugar Refiners' Association have issued a lively reply, *pro bono publico*, and, incidentally, in defence of their own interests, to those beet sugar manufacturers who have recently been besieging Parliament with demands for "bigger and better doles" for home-grown sugar. The manufacturers assert that not only was employment found for nearly 10,000 workers in 1930, but that the organisation of the industry is "simple, effective and efficient," and fully merits the "¼d. per lb. on the retail price of sugar," which the subsidy costs. The refiners retort that, in fact, it is the British taxpayer who has been "simple, effective and efficient," and recall the comment of the Economy Committee that "the total assistance to the industry during 1930-31 works out at £300 per man." Home-grown sugar, they point out, has already cost over £20 per ton to produce, though raw sugar can be bought at the moment for under £5 per ton. Moreover, the reference to "¼d. per lb." is "deliberately misleading," and really means that the manufacturers require ¼d. for every lb. of the 4,500 million lbs. of sugar consumed in this country annually, or £6 millions on the one-fifth part of that amount which they *could* produce at home. In so far as the refiners desire to show that the home sugar industry is "artificial" and uneconomic, their case is proved beyond the need of argument. Beet sugar profits, of which some £1,000,000 has been distributed to foreign shareholders since 1926, are earned, not in the field or factory, but in the lobby of the House of Commons. The refiners are prepared to grant that "for social and agricultural" reasons, a case for this extravagant "dole" may be made out, but only as long as its purpose is to help the farmer, and not to subsidise an uneconomic refining industry. "There is no reason," they claim, "why the industry should be allowed to produce a finished article in competition with a similar article which can already be manufactured without a penny of State assistance, and at a cost that is lower than in any other refining country." We associate ourselves with this expression of opinion. It is high time that the eyes of the taxpayer were opened to the nature and extent of the sugar beet "ramp."

Shipping Freight Index.—Movements in the tramp shipping freight markets during March are summarised by a fractional rise of 0.2 per cent. in our index number:—

AVERAGE 1898-1913=100.

	Average, 1911.	March, 1931.	January, 1932.	February, 1932.	March, 1932.
European Waters	110·0	88·5	88·8	88·7	87·3
North American	113·1	94·0	85·2	85·3	86·5
South American	123·4	90·5	88·2	89·0	87·0
India	106·3	99·2	99·0	87·4	87·7
Far East and Pacific	117·4	91·9	94·3	95·9	95·9
Australia	127·9	105·0	101·8	99·7	103·3
Total	116·3	94·5	93·2	91·0	91·2

The volume of chartering showed little or no signs of expansion during the month. Outward coal trade was particularly dull to near Continental destinations, though a moderate volume of business was noted for Mediterranean discharge. The North American group was dull and inactive, and the South American market ended the month with a weaker tendency. The homeward quotation from Australia was slightly higher, but the number of vessels was small. Movements of the various sections of our index numbers are shown in detail below:—

AVERAGE 1898-1913=100.

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade	77·7	– 2·8	South America—		
Bay—outwards	99·1	– 5·5	outwards	65·1	...
Bay—homewards	88·7	– 3·2	South America—		
Mediterranean—			homewards	101·7	– 4·3
outwards	89·4	+ 8·6	India—outwards	82·8	+ 0·7
Mediterranean—			India—homewards	92·7	...
homewards	91·1	– 2·8	Far East, &c.	95·9	+ 0·1
North America	86·3	+ 0·8	Australia	103·3	+ 3·4

Expressed as a percentage of the average for 1913, the total figure of our index number of March works out at 78.4, compared with 78.2 in February and 81.3 a year ago.

United Kingdom Provident Institution.—Almost alone amongst the mutual life offices, the U.K.P. has succeeded in transacting during last year a substantially greater volume of new life business, the total having risen from £3,080,000 to £3,503,000. The only feature of interest in the revenue account, which otherwise shows a normal expansion, is the further considerable rise in surrenders, which were responsible last year for payments of £280,000, compared with £213,000 in 1930, and only £129,000 in 1929. The experience of the U.K.P. in this respect has been shared by other offices, and is a regrettable, though inevitable, feature of hard times making it impossible for policyholders to keep up payment of their premiums. The gross rate of interest earned is slightly higher than in the preceding year, but the net rate, owing to higher income tax, is down from £4 12s. 3d. per cent. to £4 10s. 8d. per cent. Expenses, which have for many years been at a very low level, are practically unchanged at 13.5 per cent. of the premium income. A comparison of the last two balance sheets shows that movements in the assets have been on a very much smaller scale than in former years, and that practically the whole of the new money of 1931 was invested in mortgages, in British Government securities, and in Indian and Colonial Government securities. The Stock Exchange securities are retained at their values on December 31, 1929, the occasion of the last triennial valuation, and, compared with market values on December 31, 1931, show a depreciation on book values of £1,350,000. Compared with total assets of nearly £20 millions, this is a moderate figure, and it is stated in the report that, taking into account the substantial rise in security prices since December 31st, the greater part of this depreciation has been recovered.

Norwich Union Life.—The year 1931 was the first year of a new quinquennium, and in spite of the financial difficulties, which especially beset a society transacting a world-wide business, the Norwich Union succeeded in issuing a larger number of new policies, and for a greater amount than in 1930. Although this was also true of 1930, the increase in that year was realised in spite of a falling off in foreign business. On this occasion it has been the foreign business which has been responsible for the increase in the total, as the following figures show:—

	Sums Assured under New Life Policies.		
	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	4,247,781	4,677,475	4,628,035
Irish Free State	384,078	378,346	448,869
Dominions	2,052,329	1,998,286	2,017,477
Foreign	1,207,473	979,527	1,155,264
	7,891,661	8,033,634	8,249,645

The 1931 accounts bear evidence of the difficulties of the year, for surrenders of policies are 50 per cent. greater than a year ago, and yet the premium income has grown by £200,000 to £8½ millions. This large premium income is a great assistance in keeping expenses within bounds.

despite the fact that one-third of the premiums are collected from abroad, and the ratio of the expenses to premiums, at 14.6 per cent., is very moderate in the circumstances. For many years past the feature of the business from the bonus-earning point of view has been the high rate of interest earned, and the 1931 rate—though slightly lower than in 1930—is still much above the average at £4 19s. per cent. net. An unusually high percentage of investments in mortgages, and particularly in foreign mortgages, has been largely responsible for the high interest earnings, and an incidental effect of this traditional interest in mortgages is especially evident at this time; for mortgages, though similar in character to debentures, have no Stock Exchange quotation, and are not subject to the nightmare of depreciation which overcame the world last December. The society has been exempt also from the necessity of providing for depreciation on its largest assets, the controlling interest in the Norwich Union Fire, which stands in the books at the cost price of £6,088,000. Had the book value of this asset been varied from year to year to accord with the general movement in insurance share prices, a sum of £1¼ millions would have been required to deal with the depreciation in 1931 of this one asset. Of the total assets of £34¾ millions, only £10 millions are represented by Stock Exchange securities, and this circumstance explains the relatively small depreciation of £1,100,000 that has been written off out of accruing profits. With this sum written off, the assets are stated to stand in the balance sheet at a figure substantially less than their market value.

Norwich Union Fire.—Since the control of this society passed in 1925 from the Phœnix to the Norwich Union Life, the policy of the new parent has been gradually to eliminate the uncalled liability on the shares of its offspring. This it has been enabled to do out of trading profits, with the result that £550,000 of uncalled liability has disappeared, and the capital now consists of 44,000 fully-paid shares of £25. Thus, the way was clear for an increase in dividend, and, therefore, in the return on the Norwich Union Life Society's investment. But the world slump has intervened, the premium income has dwindled and in 1931 was superimposed the disorganisation of Stock Exchange values. And yet, though earlier hopes have not been realised, or at any rate have perforce been postponed, the society has succeeded in emerging very satisfactorily from the difficulties of 1931. On trading, the society has suffered a moderate further diminution of premium income from £4,118,000 to £4,023,000, but on the smaller total has earned a larger underwriting profit, as the following analysis shows:—

	1930.		1931.	
	Amount of Profit.	Percentage of Premiums.	Amount of Profit.	Percentage of Premiums.
	£	%	£	%
Fire	66,248	3·2	68,733	3·4
Personal accident	582	·4		
Employers' liability	4,480	1·8	105,652	5·8
General	56,614	3·9		
Marine	7,500	4·4	15,000	8·8
	135,424		189,385	
Less taxes, &c.	64,155		77,242	
Less written off investments	...		79,974	
Total net surplus	71,269		32,169	

The depreciation of the year has been fully provided for, and the investments stand at or under market values on December 31, 1931. The contribution for this object from trading profits was nearly £80,000, and a further £300,000 has been made available from reserves, the contingency fund of £100,000 being utilised, and £200,000 from the general reserve of £1,000,000. The dividend remains at 5% per cent.

The Movement of Prices—A Correction.—Owing to a printer's error in the article appearing under this title in last week's issue, it was stated that a rise of 62 per cent. might have been expected in sterling prices between September 30, 1931, and the end of March, 1932. The figure should have been 12 per cent.

Overseas Correspondence.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Disarmament Conference — The Danube.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, April 12.

THE Disarmament Conference has reopened, and the Council met this afternoon to consider the Financial Committee's report, but no definite day has yet been fixed for the resumption of the work of the Assembly Commission on the Sino-Japanese conflict. Never has the League been faced at once with a series of such difficult and important problems, and the immediate prospects are not very encouraging about any one of them. It is in reality one vast question of international relations as a whole.

The Disarmament Conference has begun to discuss the opening article of the Draft Convention, by which the contracting parties undertake to limit and so far as possible to reduce their respective armaments. Mr Gibson, the head of the American delegation, at once got down to business by proposing as a start that tanks, heavy mobile guns and gases should be abolished. He made it plain that his resolution was by no means meant to be all-inclusive and that he would make proposals later about heavy bombing aeroplanes, his purpose being to capitalise the various suggestions which had been made for weakening the power of aggression on land, and so contributing to the sense of security. The feeling of security, he argued, would not be restored until defence had recovered its superiority. Sir John Simon was in substantial agreement, asserting that the temptation to resort to armed conflict would obviously be reduced if defence were strengthened at the expense of attack. Security would be substantially promoted if agreement were reached to prohibit the monstrous weapons named. Corresponding questions would have to be considered with equal definiteness in the field of naval and air armaments. M. Nadolny, the German delegate, accepted in principle, but once again drew attention to the imperative need for reduction of armaments as a whole.

M. Tardieu succeeded in having the resolution proposed by Mr Gibson referred to the General Bureau, on the understanding that the Bureau should at the same time be asked to consider all similar proposals, whether of a general or piecemeal character. The purpose of this was evident. M. Tardieu is prepared to discuss nothing which is not related to the elaborate French plan for arming the League. He returned to the question this morning in a clever but destructive speech. He made fun of the various kinds of offensive and aggressive weapons which had been named, argued that if particular weapons were abolished, others would take their place, such as the German pocket cruiser, and they would be having other things equivalent to pocket guns and pocket aeroplanes. He regarded the whole idea of abolishing specific weapons as a mere return to the efforts of The Hague conferences which had been proved useless, and he made an assertion which, if accepted, would make any further effort to arrive at a disarmament convention abortive. The Paris Pact, he said, was a major international instrument, and if any Power decided, against its obligations, to use war as an instrument of national policy, it would have no hesitation about breaking any subsidiary international engagements. The only conclusion to be drawn from such a statement is that the Paris Pact should be left as the sole international engagement and that every Power should keep what forces it likes. Some one wittily observed that the idea seemed to be that it was no good putting a muzzle on a dog unless it had good teeth. But the purpose, of course, of M. Tardieu's illogical intervention was to demonstrate that nothing would be any use except the French plan. As this would involve very serious and complicated undertakings to place arms at the disposal of the League, why should it be supposed that States, after violating the Paris Pact, would be any more inclined to carry out their duties under such an

agreement than under any other agreements subsidiary to the Paris Pact?

It is obvious that every proposal put forward will be related by M. Tardieu to the French proposals, and it would be well if these were immediately dealt with. There is no chance of their being accepted, and, doubtless, the Conference will arrive at a seriously critical point if M. Tardieu persists; but that point must be reached some time, and it is better it should be soon than that every other idea put forward should be stone-walled. The French position must ultimately be challenged, and if it is their determination to do nothing unless their plan is accepted, the earlier this is declared the better; it is difficult to believe that it is the final French word. Hovering over it all is the central problem, which still remains to be tackled—is Germany to come into the convention on the same principles as everybody else?

At present it looks as if the only promising tendency of the Conference (namely, the abolition or weakening of specifically aggressive weapons) will be resisted by France unless her so-called international force is created; there is no hope of the Conference accepting that. The dealock must be reached before anything can be done. It is a deadlock which has always been inevitable, and when it comes it will be time to consider what the Conference can really do to avoid catastrophe. M. Tardieu virtually declined to recognise that any weapon was essentially offensive, on the argument that offence was necessary for defence. There was no word of any readiness to consider reduction except on French conditions, and the one question everywhere asked is whether France, as the most heavily armed State in Europe, could reasonably be expected to pass over to the League the great weapons to be earmarked for the League's use if France should at any time be declared an aggressor. Naturally the French reply to this is that this will never happen, and certainly no one would accuse France of any such intention; but the French seem incapable of understanding that security means something more than French security, and there is little chance of progress until they begin to face that fact. Whether the arrival of Dr Brüning and Mr Stimson this week and the expected later arrival of Mr MacDonald will change the situation, no one knows; but it is proper that these responsible Ministers should be here to deal with the critical tendencies in this and other directions.

At the request of the four Powers who took part in the Danubian conversations in London, the Council has postponed until its May meeting any consideration of raising loans, as suggested by the Financial Committee. It was explained that the financial experts of the four Governments were considering the general questions raised by the Financial Committee's report, and that they would enter into consultation with the Committee and report in time for the May meeting. The Council will hear representatives of Bulgaria, Greece, Austria and Hungary in private during the week; but as no question of loans can be considered till May, it is not easy to see what the Council can do to help any of these States meanwhile. There was some curiosity at the assertion by Herr von Bulow, the German representative, that the failure of the London meeting had been exaggerated.

UNITED STATES.

Public Finance — Reconstruction — Industry.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, April 6.

UNCERTAINTY over the form which the new Tax Bill will take has perhaps been a more depressing factor during the past fortnight than has the continued lack of cheer in the business skies. Wall Street, for all its desire to see a Tax Bill passed which will meet proposed expenditure, has, nevertheless, been feeling much disturbed over some provisions of the House measure, now before the Senate. Hope is entertained that the Senate will at least soften some of the rougher parts of the Bill, in particular the taxes on stock and bond transfers, but so long as the higher charges are threatened it is unlikely that the markets will take much heart.

Mr Mills, Secretary of the Treasury, has appeared before the Senate Finance Committee, which now has the Tax Bill for revision, and stated the case in opposition to the taxes, which it is feared will so hamper business as seriously to delay a business recovery. He opposed the increase in the corporation tax to 13½ per cent. from 12 per cent. (the Treasury having recommended a 13 per cent. tax); a 1½ per cent. tax on consolidated corporation reports; a tax on company dividends (now subject only to surtaxes and to some State taxes); the full extent of the estate tax, set by the House at 45 per cent.; the provision disallowing carrying of net losses of one year into the next to balance corporation income, and that section limiting the right to deduct from taxable income the amount of loss on security sales; the House Bill limiting such deduction to the amount of gain on similar sales; and the security transfer taxes.

At present the New York State tax, doubled this year, is 4 cents a share of $100 or no par and graduated on intermediate par values, and the Federal Government tax is 2 cents a share, on a similar basis. It is now proposed in the House Bill to tax stock transfers at ½ per cent. *ad valorem*, or a minimum of 4 cents a share. The higher tax, with commission rates and narrow movements generally, would, it is feared, thin out the markets by driving out speculative dealing, to say nothing of placing heavy penalties on odd lot sales of stock going largely to small investors, that the share market would no longer be a possible means of raising corporate capital.

The higher tax proposed on bond transfers is ½ of 1 per cent. Since bond dealers make their turn on as low as $\frac{1}{8}$, many believe that such a high tax would drive most of them out of business and cripple capital flotations. Stock Exchange memberships have dropped sharply in price, sales this week at $83,000 comparing with a bull year high level of over $600,000. The position taken by the supporters of the proposed security taxes shows that they are rooted in the desire to hurt Wall Street rather than to raise revenue. At the same time, some of the outcry against them is probably too loud, and in the end the investor would suffer more than the speculator. Much the same thing may be said about the proposal to increase the tax on produce transfers, notably on wheat, to 5 cents on each $100 of sales.

If the optimistic estimates which place the revenue to be produced by the Tax Bill passed by the House at a little over $1,000 millions are accepted, a deficit of approximately $300 millions must be made good. The original Sales Tax Bill rejected in the House would have cleared this up, and it is now proposed to cut that amount off estimated expenditure. Few people doubt that so severe a reduction could be made, but whether the President and Congress will have the courage to do it remains to be seen. President Hoover has taken a firm verbal stand on the matter, but he is showing signs of succumbing once more to his old weakness for relegating responsibility to a Commission.

The cloud of a $2,000 million soldiers' bonus is still hovering over Washington, but active opposition has developed among many of the ex-service men's organisations, and there is a good chance that Congress will not be able to muster the necessary two-thirds majority to carry such a measure over the veto which President Hoover has promised. The Glass Banking Bill also has yet to be settled, but it is certain to be revised, and perhaps when it again emerges from committee it will have lost much of its venom.

Improvement in financial conditions continues, and the National Credit Corporation has made a second refund of 10 per cent. to subscribing banks. A third repayment is expected shortly, partly due to the improvement in the position of banks which it has aided and partly due to the gradual taking over of bank loans by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The needs of the latter body will probably mean a fresh Treasury note issue in the middle of this month.

A dispute has developed between the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Interstate Commerce Commission over the granting of railroad loans. It was clearly the purpose of the former organisation to assist railroads with money to meet their fixed charges and current bills, provided the loans could not be otherwise obtained. Most railroads are heavy borrowers at the commercial banks, and these demand or short-term loans have in effect become frozen, since the bond market makes refunding impracticable. The banks naturally have wished to lessen their credit extensions since the reconstruction body began to act, and already a good many loans, releasing private bank credit, have been approved.

It was provided in the Reconstruction Act that, as a formal matter, the Interstate Commerce Commission should approve the railroad loans, but it was not intended that this approval should go beyond the merit of a loan to the road. Acting largely under political pressure brought to bear by one or two members of the reconstruction organisation, a few members of the Commerce Commission have given only "reluctant approval," as they call it, to railroad loans, on the ground that the banks and not a quasi-governmental body should carry them. The banks are accused by Western politicians, and particularly those of a complexion different from that of the Administration, of abandoning the railroads, little being said about the obviously shaky loans (in reality gifts) made by the Reconstruction Finance to farmers. While some anxiety has been raised by the affair, the outcome will probably be continuance of railroad lending and the avoidance of receivership for important lines.

Bank earnings for the first quarter have run in most cases above current dividend rates, but there has been a considerable drop in deposits. The member banks of the Federal Reserve system are rapidly paying off their borrowings at the Federal Reserve, which continues to buy Government securities. Many people feel that an immediate reduction in the discount rate would have no great effect, and the market is not looking for one immediately.

Trade conditions are unsatisfactory. The steel industry has been unable to recover to as high as a fourth of its rated capacity. Pig iron output in March fell to the low levels of the 1921 depression, running on a daily average about 6 per cent. under February. Railroad traffic also, after a brief spurt in the middle of March, is in a fresh slump, but it is difficult to say how much is due to decline in business volume and how much to the further inroads of motor truck and waterway competition. Railroad earnings in February were considerably better than those of January, thanks to the 10 per cent. reduction in wages.

Some trouble has developed in the Middle West among the public-utility concerns directed by the Insull interests of Chicago. Financial reorganisations are being undertaken, and some hope is held that water may be squeezed out and bank loans met without resort to the courts. The affair provides an illustration of the unwarranted lengths to which the holding company idea was carried in this country.

FRANCE.

Politics — Prices — Industry — Employment.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, April 13.

The General Elections, which have been definitely fixed by Decree to take place on May 1st (with the second ballot on the following Sunday), are now the one subject of preoccupation so far as internal affairs are concerned. The foreign situation, however, more than ever dominates all matters of opinion, and since the increase of the Hitlerist poll by 2,000,000 votes at last Sunday's German presidential contest, the outcome of the Prussian and other German Parliamentary elections on April 24 has become a prominent factor in determining the political character of the new Chamber of Deputies. Until the prorogation of the Chambers a fortnight ago there was a widespread feeling throughout the country, and even among a large section of the supporters of the parliamentary majority, that a swing of the pendulum towards the Left was likely to be revealed by the pending French elections. Last Sunday's menacing increase of the Hitlerist vote, however, has made an enormous impression on the French mind, both in the provinces and in Paris. The feelings of nervousness as to the possibility of the advent to power of a Socialist Ministry—or at least of another Herriot Cabinet, largely controlled, as in 1924, by an augmented although non-participating Socialist Party—have disappeared; and there is now little doubt that the pending contest in this country will result in a strengthening of the Nationalist forces in the Chamber through sheer pressure of circumstances.

Whether, in view of Hitler's recent activities, a *de facto* revival of the Cartel des Gauches will now be found possible for application to the second ballots on May 8th has now become an extremely open question. On all really Nationalist questions—such as the voting of the Budget, for example—at least a large minority of the Radical leaders, if not of the rank and file, differ as widely as the poles from their possible Socialist allies for election purposes. M. Herriot and his friends, however, are faced with an awkward dilemma, which has been intensified by the death of M. Briand. Since the 1928 elections they have lost a serious number of seats to the Socialists, and the party slogan of "No enemies to the Left" appears likely to cost them many more if they persist in relying on the Marxian Socialists for salvation.

On the face of it, the future of the once omnipotent Radical Party appers to be at least doubtful, with indications pointing to the probability of a scission, the one fraction (and apparently the major one) adopting the rôle of Socialist Party Right, and the minor half, including M. Herriot himself, constituting the Centre Left, and again forming a *bloc* with the groups representing the present majority (after, possibly, the elimination of the Marin Nationalists, whose continued existence as a constituent part of the Tardieu, Laval and Poincaré majorities has latterly been M. Herriot's ostensible reason for refusing to resume co-operation with the groups of the Centre and Right Centre). So far nothing has occurred to bar the road to M. Herriot's return to co-operation with the Moderate Centre, which would at least ensure France a more stable Government than she has enjoyed for the past three years. It is a question, however, whether M. Herriot and his "Moderate" wing are in a position to shake off the trammels of the real dictators of the Radical Socialist Party—the provincial professors and other doctrinaires, who refuse to recognise that conditions have changed since the days of Gambetta and who still regard the slogan, "Clericalism is the enemy," as voicing the fundamental doctrine of a great political party whose talents and energy are required to aid in restoring European peace and prosperity.

The general index figure for wholesale prices at the end of March indicates a rise of six points on the month and fourteen points since the end of December. The general unweighted index for the end of March (July, 1914 = 100) is 427, against 421 for the previous month, 414 January, and 413 December, which was the lowest index recorded for many years. Wholesale prices of French goods show a rise (from 486 to 493) on the month, and of 22 points since the end of December. The figure for imported products rose four points (304 to 308) on the month, and cancelled out the drop at the end of January from 308 to 300. Weighted index (1913 = 100) is returned as 444, against 446 at the end of February, 439 end of January (lowest) and a mean of 502 in 1931.

French industrial production, as shown by the monthly figures issued on Monday by the Statistique Générale, has now dropped slightly below pre-war volume. The general index returned for February, the last month fully reported on, is 100 (1913 = 100), as against 105 in January, 133 in February last year, and means of 124 in 1931 and 140 in 1930. Of the nine chief industries covered by the general figure, the heaviest drop is in engineering, output in which fell 7 points on the month (111 to 104). Building is returned as 115, or 4 points down on the month, and has since dropped to 113. Extractive industries and

metallurgy each declined a point, rubber trades output 4, textiles and leather 3 points each. The paper industry, which has improved steadily since it dropped to 102 in November, moved up another two points on the month to 107. The motor industry, which stood at a mean of 657 in 1929, is returned at 469 (against 598 in the corresponding month of 1931), representing a seasonal recovery of 5 points on the month.

Unemployment, as usual at this season, appears to be on the decrease. The total number in receipt of unemployment allowances on March 19th was 305,496, which set up a new high record (the previous highest total under this heading having been 81,916 during the crisis of 1927). During the week ending March 26th the number of persons on benefit throughout the country dropped by 2,278 units, and for the week ending April 2nd by a further 745 units (to 303,473, of whom 158,653 were in Paris and the Seine Department which surrounds it). The monthly return issued by the Labour Ministry showing the results of the systematic inquiry made by its inspectors, covering undertakings throughout the country employing 100 hands and upwards, indicates that at the beginning of March the total number of units employed was 2,407,834, as against 2,818,144 at the corresponding period of 1931, equivalent to a decrease in employment on the year of 14.53 per cent.

GERMANY.

Elections — Reichsbank — Stock Exchange.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, April 12.

THE second ballot in the Presidential election has confirmed the expectation that Herr von Hindenburg would be elected by an absolute majority. The result did, however, produce one surprise: not the fact that Hitler secured most of the votes which had been cast for the German Nationalist candidate Düsterberg in the first election, for there never could have been any doubt about that. But the transfer of some half million votes from the Communist candidate Thälmann to Hitler caused great astonishment in political circles. The close connection between the ideas of the Communists and the National Socialists is obvious to every student of German politics. Active support for Herr Hitler's candidature was completely in accordance with the election watchword of the Communists, who put up Herr Thälmann as a candidate in order to draw labour votes from Herr von Hindenburg and the anti-Hitler campaign, in order that a Hitler victory might destroy the " system "; that is, the existing democratic state, and a " revolutionary situation " might thereby be created. The only surprising thing is that Communist voters thought out this argument to its logical conclusion, and as they saw that Thälmann had absolutely no chance, and that Hitler's own party was not strong enough to carry him to victory, they voted directly for Herr Hitler. This fact, when it became known, constituted a tactical disadvantage not only for the Communists but for the Hitler Party. Hitler loves to pose, both at home and abroad, as the champion of Germany against Bolshevism, and the Communist support which has been lent him upsets this pose. The Communists, on their side, have not hitherto openly admitted to the workers in what direction their tactics were leading, but have represented themselves as the most ardent opponents of Fascism. That is precisely why it is so remarkable that so many Communist electors should have grasped the situation and acted accordingly. This union of the Communist supporters with the National Socialists will provide the Social Democrats with an effective argument in the Landtag elections.

The attempt on the life of the President of the Reichsbank has no political significance. His assailants belong to a group of monetary reformers who are particularly strongly opposed to the gold standard, and would like to abolish interest by the issue of money which would lose a prescribed proportion of its value every week. Some of the notions of this group suggest certain ideas of the National Socialists, who are deluded, in their campaign for " breaking the bonds of interest," by ideas which are not much sounder. The National Socialist Party had, however, nothing to do with the attempt, and it is not even certain whether there was a serious intention of wreaking revenge on Dr. Luther or whether the object was merely to attract attention to the ideas of the assailant and his friends.

At the end of last week the Reichsbank decided to reduce the rate of discount by one half per cent. to 5½ per cent. The bank wishes, of course, to afford every encouragement to business that the monetary situation allows, and considers it justifiable, in the present state of its bill portfolio, to give an inducement to the offer of an increased number of bills by cheapening this form of credit in accordance with the reductions in discount rates abroad. The discounts, including Treasury bills and Lombards, are shown below:—

(In Million Reichmarks.)

	Dec. 31, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Dec. 31, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Bills	2,828	2,367	4,487	3,671	3,607
Total circulation...	6,406	6,063	6 679	6,253	6,254

The rise in discounts as compared with the end of March last year is due to the credits which the Reichsbank was obliged to extend, in the form of re-discounts, during the banking crisis last summer. Relatively few re-discounts were asked for at the end of last quarter.

The Reichsbank considers the exchange regulations now to be so effective that it anticipates no flight of capital in consequence of the reduction in discount rates. Every reduction in interest reduces somewhat the pressure to liquidate stocks and the inducement to export, which is undesirable; but most undertakings have so great a thirst for employment that there is little to be feared in this direction. It therefore appeared to the Reichsbank that a maintenance of the discount rate, which cannot at the moment improve the German capital position, would, after the reductions in rates abroad, be an unnecessary burden on German economy. No doubt also it was anxious not to make more difficult, by unnecessary obstinacy on the discount rate question, its position in resisting demands that it should finance a large programme for the provision of employment.

To-day regular trading on the stock exchanges is at last resumed. Since September 20th the exchanges have been closed and the publication of the prices arrived at in outside trading forbidden. The uncertainty of the political, economic and monetary situation was the principal reason for the prolonged hesitation of the Government and the banks in deciding to resume the publication of quotations. The importance of the stock exchanges in German economic life must not, indeed, be overrated. The number of security holders is relatively small, and many of the shares of companies which are quoted on the Stock Exchange are not in circulation. All the same, the lack of activity on the Stock Exchange which was already apparent in the first half of last year is a crisis symptom of the first importance. There are no accurate turnover statistics, but reliable estimates place the decline in stock exchange transactions at 25 per cent. in two years.

In comparison with the course of stock exchange prices on many foreign bourses the present level of quotations is not unsatisfactory. The indices of share prices show a decline of only 10-15 per cent. since September, and some shares (*e.g.*, Salzdetfurth, Gelsenkirchen, Rheinische Braunkohle) have risen, while others, such as I.G. Farben, Siemens and Reichsbank have only fallen a few points. Other leading shares, including A.E.G., Stahlverein, Hapag and Lloyd, and especially the shares of the German private banks, have lost a third and in some cases even a half of their value while the Stock Exchange was closed. Among the bank shares, Dresdner, Danat- und Kommerzbank are quoted at only 23, against a new nominal value of 30 established after the reconstruction; DD Bank, however, stands at 44, against a normal value of 40.

There have been great changes in the prices of German rentes, though after the December conversion of interest rates they almost all pay 6 per cent. on the nominal value. While the 7 per cent. Reichsbahn preference shares are quoted at 68¼, the best 6 per cent. mortgage bonds of the

mortgage banks stand at 70, but city loans bearing the same rate are only 50 or less, and the 6 per cent. loan of Vereinigte Stahlwerke can even be had at 34. There is also a very wide difference between the yield on long-term loans and the interest on short-term money. Since the discount rate was reduced to 5½ per cent., bank acceptances are available at 5 per cent., and 30-day money at 6 per cent.

In comparison with the unofficial rates obtaining at the end of March, there has been an almost universal slight decline. This is explained principally by foreign influences, which are still further reducing enterprise in Germany. The Kreuger affair and the slump in the New York Stock Exchange are having repercussions in Berlin. On the other hand, opinion as to the German foreign exchange position is somewhat more optimistic at the moment. The prolongation of the $125 millions two-year credit which the Reich took up in November, 1930, caused general satisfaction. The prolongation will, however, involve the party with foreign exchange by the Reichsbank this summer, as it was agreed to by the international consortium of bankers under the leadership of Lee Higginson on condition the Government and the Reichsbank paid back $15.5 millions in foreign bills in July of this year.

ITALY.

Banking — Exchequer Bonds — Unemployment — Kartels.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, April 4.

PERHAPS the only visible reaction of changed monetary conditions has been the reduction by the Bank of Italy of its discount rate from 7 per cent.—to which level it had been raised from 5½ per cent. on September 28th—to 6 per cent. on March 21st. This was a move preliminary to the issue of a milliard 5 per cent. nine-year Treasury bonds, to take place between April 7th and 20th. The bonds will be made attractive by 58 half-yearly premiums ranging from one million to 10,000 lire. The issue is at 97, and, including premiums, the yield works out at about 6 per cent. The proceeds will primarily be used to reimburse the 1924 4.75 per cent Treasury bonds which fall due in November, and of which there are outstanding 905.8 million lire. As subscriptions will probably exceed a milliard, the surplus will be welcomed by the Treasury, which is subjected to the strain of a budgetary deficit amounting for the first eight months of the year to 2,091.2 million lire. Owing to the usual time lag between budgeting and disbursements, the excess of actual expenditure over actual receipts has been in the same period only 633 million lire.

The Exchequer needs, however, to be relieved, particularly in view of the fact that the floating debt amounted on February 28th to 6,130.6 million lire, almost wholly due to the Deposit and Loan State Bank, a public institution to which are entrusted the deposits of postal saving banks and the funds of various social and public insurance bodies. As in France, this Deposit and Loans Bank (Cassa Depositi e Prestiti), though little known among the general public, is the biggest bank in Italy, with funds of upwards 17 milliard lire. Of these, roughly 6.6 are advanced to public bodies, provinces, municipalities, public works and other corporations, 4.6 are invested in State securities, and 6 are advanced to the State Exchequer as a current account. Thus the bank, by canalising savings to the State and other public bodies, is a major pillar of public credit.

Trade and industry grow restive from time to time under this wholesale absorption of public savings for State use. At present, however, criticism is disarmed, as it was by reason of the large funds in possession of the D. and L. Bank, that the Bank of Italy was able to withstand the monetary storm of last autumn without decreasing advances to trade. As Governor Azzolini observed at the shareholders' meeting held on March 31st, the Bank of Italy had to suffer a decrease during 1931 in the total gold and foreign exchange reserves amounting to 1,827 million lire, in order to satisfy the demands of importers and other debtors. The Bank therefore decreased its note circulation during the same period by 1,385 million lire. Instead of contracting, discounts and advances—inclusive of advances to the Liquidation Institute—increased by 972 million lire, a feat which was possible only by an increase of 603 million lire in the current account of the Exchequer at the Bank. These letters have repeatedly called attention to this interesting policy, akin, in a way, to the open market operations of the Bank of England and the Federal Reserve Board. It works somewhat on the following lines: Private savings are deposited at from 5 to 6 per cent. in the postal banks, who in their turn transfer their deposits to the D. and L. Bank; the D. and L. Bank lends some of it to the State Exchequer, presumably at the same rate of interest, the Exchequer redepositing a part of it at the Bank of Italy in a 1.50 per cent. current account, thus enabling the Bank of Italy to keep the note issue within strict bounds. The system has worked out satisfactorily, partly owing to the crisis, which renders savers shy of direct investments and devout buyers instead of postal bills and of Treasury bonds. The saving public being obdurate against buying of shares and advances to industry, it is made to invest its funds in industry by these devious ways.

An interesting interpretation of the continued increase of unemployment is given in the Press. The net number of emigrants, which was 151,000 in 1930, decreased in 1931 to 58,000 and in the first two months of 1932 to 6,000. This fact does not entirely account for the increase from 642,169 unemployed at the end of 1930 to 982,321 at the end of 1931 and to 1,147,945 at the end of February, 1932, but may have been a contributory cause.

Further regulations enacted by a recent Cabinet council add interesting details to the general outlines already given of compulsory State-regulated kartels (Consorzii). In the industrial field, the consent of 75 per cent. of the firms of a given branch and of 75 per cent. of capital invested, or of 90 per cent. of capital invested only, if the necessary quorum of firms is not forthcoming, is required for the constitution of such compulsory kartels. In the agricultural field a firm's quorum would not be attainable owing to the great number of farmers, and therefore the consent of 70 per cent. of production will suffice. Government factories or societies, with a 50 per cent. Government capital share, shall be obliged to become members of such kartels, or, at least, to act with them. Minorities shall have a right of appeal to a special board in case of regulations limiting their freedom of action. The State can delegate a public supervisor with a seat on the board of directors of the kartels. Nobody shall start a new business in an already cartellised field without State authorisation, and should the authorisation be granted, he must enter the kartel at once. A jute kartel has been recently formed, and many others are planned. Whether kartels are going to be an appropriate remedy for the crisis is doubtful. At the meeting held on March 31st of the shareholders of the "Montecatini," a big concern interested mainly in the field of artificial fertilisers (57 per cent. of the national production of superphosphates), it was stated that the consumption of superphosphates in Italy fell from 1,525,000 tons in 1929 to 1,287,000 tons in 1930 and to 892,500 tons in 1931. Kartels or Consortiums, however State regulated, will be of no avail against the reaction of the consuming public if they are not able to reduce costs and prices.

HOLLAND.

Belgian Treaty — Imports — Money — Capital.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, April 5.

DURING the last few weeks, public attention has largely been concentrated upon the negotiations between the Netherlands and Belgium concerning a commercial treaty and the revision of the treaties of 1839, with particular reference to the Antwerp-Rhine communications. In the Press and at meetings throughout the country, the proposed Netherlands-Belgium treaty has been a subject of active discussion for some time past, and, in consequence of rumours in circulation, considerable opposition arose.

The subject has now also been brought forward in the First Chamber of Parliament, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs made a pronouncement on the matter. The discussions have been conducted under the leadership of the Dutch ex-Minister, Dr. Colijn, and the Belgian Minister of State, Dr. Frans van Cauwelaert. The Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his statement in the First Chamber of Parliament last week, declined to give any information as to what stage had been reached in the negotiations. "The Houses of Parliament are concerned with the result of the negotiations, but the negotiations are the sole affair of the Government," the Minister declared. "Both the Dutch and Belgian Governments had hoped to find a solution to the complicated problems, before the general elections due in both countries next year. Difficulties entailing closer consideration, however, have arisen. Through the economic situation, moreover, economic rapprochement comes more into prominence than the revision of the political treaties of 1839. By means of a new commercial treaty it is hoped to tighten the bonds of friendship uniting the two nations."

From this Ministerial statement it is evident that the negotiations have been suspended for the time being, and that no agreement with Belgium will be achieved before 1933. Although it is assured that the utmost conciliation was displayed by both parties, it was found impossible to arrive at an agreement. It is said, however, that the two points of view had closely approached agreement, for which reason the negotiations are not being abandoned, although matters are at a deadlock for the time being. The divergence of opinion still concerns the Antwerp-Rhine communication desired by Belgium, but it is hoped that sooner or later complete agreement will be reached on this matter too.

The labour conflict in the Twente textile branch has been settled, and the general strike has accordingly come to an end. No employment is, however, available for 40 to 50 per cent. of the employees, owing to shortage of work in the factories.

Increasing use is being made of the provisions of the Emergency Imports legislation, and quota restrictions have now been decreed for china, earthenware, and tiles. For the period March 1, 1932, to May 31, 1932, the import of china from all countries is prohibited, in so far as the value of the imports exceeds 90 per cent. of the average per quarter imported from each country during the years 1928, 1929 and 1930. For fine earthenware, the quota is 75 per cent., for sanitary earthenware 85 per cent., and for wall tiles 60 per cent. By Royal Decree of March 24, a temporary restriction on the importation of outer and inner cycle tyres has also been enforced, the quota order reading:—

"During the period March 1, 1932, to May 31, 1932, the importation of inner and outer cycle tyres from every country is prohibited in so far as the number imported exceeds 95 per cent. of the average number per quarter imported from each country during the years 1928, 1929 and 1930."

The Amsterdam money market continues to display greater liquidity. The average rate for prolongations was 1.0542 per cent. in March, as against 1.634 per cent. in February, 1932, and 1.0443 per cent. in March, 1931. The tendency on the foreign exchange market was also satisfactory, and the guilder rate was firm, so that a small increase could be registered in the gold stock of the Netherlands Bank. The Stock Exchange, on the other hand, displayed a weak tendency, under the influence of the reaction in Kreuger securities and several disappointing annual reports issued by prominent companies.

The new issues market, however, was well maintained. In the majority of cases the issuing houses have only been undertaking the receipt of the subscriptions, without guaranteeing the success of the issue. Their rôle has accordingly become entirely passive. During March, issues of 118.6 million guilders solely for account of the State, provinces and municipalities were marketed. During the first quarter of 1932 the issues totalled 187.8 millions, as against 57.1 millions in 1931. The high figure this year is attributable to the recent State loan, which absorbed 100 million guilders of new capital from the market. Industrial undertakings did not come on the market with a single issue during the first quarter of 1932.

AUSTRIA.

Credit-Anstalt — Foreign Trade — Industry.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, April 11.

THE report of the reconstructive committee of the Credit-Anstalt has appeared, and has been passed over to a very small parliamentary committee. The report makes the most serious criticisms of the management of the former Credit-Anstalt and the balance sheets of recent years; and this criticism is said to be based on thorough investigation. The report is not to be published for the present, but the Government have stated that they will hand it over to the public prosecutor for further investigation. It is a fact that the former directors have already been cross-examined by the court, and several members of the board have been called upon for information. There are large groups in Parliament which desire to conclude from the report of the reconstruction committee that the conditions under which the Government undertook the guarantee to the creditors no longer obtain. The Government itself does not take this view.

The fact that the report is kept secret has not prevented a stream of details from leaking out. Further, a book which has just been published by the former chairman of the Boden-Credit-Anstalt, Dr. Sieghart, mentions that at the time the Credit-Anstalt took over the affairs of the Boden-Credit-Anstalt the former was already in difficulties, and that it might have been saved for a fraction of the financial expense which has subsequently proved necessary. It is certain that, when the Boden-Credit-Anstalt took over the Verkehrsbank and the Unionbank, it did not make bad bargains, and the shares of several of the subsidiary enterprises of the latter bank in particular proved to be valuable assets.

It is now stated that the surviving Austrian banks will not pay any dividends for the past year. The Bankverein, the Länderbank and the Merkurbank made a private resolution to this effect some time ago. The Niederoesterreichische Escompte-Gesellschaft will probably follow suit. It would have been in a position to distribute a dividend half the size of last year's, but this plan, too, has been dropped. One reason for the passing of their dividend by the Vienna banks is the change which has taken place in the banking interests in Prague. The Vienna banks hold large batches of the shares of the Czechoslovak banks, dating from the time when they were obliged to nationalise their branches in Czechoslovakia or merge them with Prague banks, and a great deal of money will be lost on these shares. Furthermore, the present year has begun very unfavourably for the banking business. There is no new business, issue activity has stopped, foreign exchange business is becoming more and more centralised at the National Bank, and, in spite of the large sums written off from the accounts of debtors, further writings-off are necessary. The restrictions upon trade are also a disadvantage to banking business.

If the Government now announce, after the fruitlessness of the London Conference, that limitation of imports is to be introduced, this will hit commerce and, as a consequence, the banks also. There is a proposal to limit importation from those countries whose deliveries are chiefly instrumental in causing the deficit in the Austrian balance of foreign trade. Among these are Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. Trade with Germany, which shows a balance in favour of Austrian exports, will be affected less, especially as Germany is inclined to facilitate tourist traffic to Austria and has also offered preferential Customs treatment. There will probably be a limitation of imports of brown coal, and various semi-manufactured articles for the textile industry will also be excluded. Importation of agricultural products is also to be affected. A special ministerial committee has been elected to speed up the necessary preliminary work. In this connection it must not be overlooked that Austrian exports to the above-mentioned countries are constantly dwindling. For instance, Austrian exports to Hungary in the year 1928 amounted to 190 million schillings, and last year to only 90 millions. Exports to Czechoslovakia

amounted to only 157 millions, against 280 millions formerly. Last year the difference between export and import values in trade with Poland was 120 million schillings on the side of imports; exports fell by a full half, while imports were reduced by only a third.

The Federal Railways are effecting savings by curtailing the service and giving up certain local lines completely. The summer service is also to start later this year. In the matter of reducing salaries, it is probable that nothing further will be done, as a further reduction of the standard of living is considered insufferable, and the clerks' association and the political parties are ready to protest strongly. The drop in purchasing is felt keenly by the shops. The weekly average showed 106 compositions and 19 bankruptcies against 62 and 15 for March of last year. The greater portion of the compositions took place with commercial enterprises, especially dealers in personal linen and ready-made clothes. Foodstuff dealers and restaurant keepers, who have long enjoyed a particularly favourable position, are now also beginning to suffer.

The movement of deposits at the savings banks, which is not so unfavourable, is slowing up, as the deposits were made chiefly by the smaller tradespeople. Still, the savings banks are now in a position to accord a few mortgage credits, whereas they formerly exercised great reserve. On the other hand, the State housing scheme has come to a standstill, as the means to continue it have run out, and there is no hope of placing the second batch of the Housing Loan in the near future. The reconstruction of the mountain road up the Glockner, which was widely announced some time ago, and in which the A.E.G. of Berlin desired to participate, has met with obstacles, especially as the estimate of 12 million schillings might not cover the material and it is not certain that even the 12 millions could be raised. An important event of last week was the fact that the National Bank of Austria came under liability for the bank-note tax. As long as the cover relation, which is at present about 23 per cent., remains below 22 per cent., the tax amounts to one per cent. over the bank rate, or eight per cent. at present.

HUNGARY.

Danube Project — Politics — Finance.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, April 12.

The failure of the Four-Power Conference in London did not discourage Hungarian public opinion. It is firmly believed here that the Danubian problem, now in the forefront of the European political arena, will not disappear from it until a *modus vivendi* has been found by the Great Powers to save Central Europe from the threatening economic and financial collapse. The Tardieu plan, with its problematical preferential tariffs and moderate financial backing, was never considered here as a satisfactory or a permanent solution, but it was welcomed as a sign that France is willing to take an active part in the restoration of the Danubian States.

The lessons of the past decade prove that without far-reaching economic changes financial assistance alone will never bring about a durable recovery in any of the Succession States. The Government, realising that Hungary is hugely over-borrowed, does not look any more towards new foreign loans as a desirable objective, but is concentrating its efforts on obtaining a reduction of the intolerably high interest rates on its present foreign obligations. Hungary has borrowed since 1924 almost £100 millions (gold), of which more than three-quarters was supplied by British and American capitalists. Therefore, it is obvious that, although the commercial interests of Great Britain and the United States are not significant in Hungary, their financial interests are predominant. As to the economic aspect, Hungary would welcome any solution in the Danube Valley which would bring about an economic unit sufficiently large to take her agricultural surplus, both cereals and cattle. It should not be overlooked, however, that, with the inclusion of Rumania and Jugoslavia, the Succession States of the Old Hapsburg Monarchy will still have a huge agricultural surplus which only Germany and Italy could take from them, as the Austrian and Czechoslovakian markets are too small. It is natural, therefore, that Hungary should be chiefly interested in a solution which would secure for her the German and Italian markets, for they are, next to the Austrian market, Hungary's chief purchasers at present.

The internal political situation is still rather unsettled, though the Government's prestige has been greatly strengthened by Count Károlyi's flat refusal to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the printers, who went on a "political sympathy" strike following the suppression of the Socialist newspaper *Népszava*. Thus the two days' strike came to an end, and a general strike was averted. On the other hand, there is good reason to believe that the Government will reconsider the case of the Socialist newspaper.

In view of the grave financial situation calling for immediate and unpopular measures, the firm attitude of the Prime Minister was very fortunate, and it is hoped that the provisions of the recent Emergency Decree of the Government—including certain tax increases and a moderate reduction of the emoluments of the State employees and pensioners ranging from 2 to 5 per cent.—will not be torpedoed by Parliament. According to a statement of the Finance Minister, the proposed curtailments of salaries and pensions which are to come into force on July 1st, at the beginning of the next financial year, will mean a saving of 15 million pengö per annum, while the emergency taxes are expected to yield about 50 million pengö. Baron Korányi has stated also that the Administration Budget for 1932-33 will provide for an expenditure of 806 million pengö, as against an expenditure limit of 890 million pengö for the current Budget year, and actual expenditure of over 1,000 million pengö in the past two financial years. Unfortunately, the revenue returns of the Treasury do not warrant the hope that even 800 millions could be raised. In the period July, 1931-February, 1932, receipts amounted to 542.5 million pengö only, and in the remaining four months 240 million pengö at best can be reasonably expected. Current expenditure amounted in the first eight months of the present financial year to 598.4 million pengö, leaving a deficit of 55.9 million pengö, which is further increased by the additional expenditure on funded investments and cash advances of 36.6 million pengö and 27.3 million pengö for the deficiency of the State undertakings so that the total deficit at the end of February amounted to 119.8 million pengö, which was increased by another 10 million pengö in March.

By Government Order-in-Council the wheat and rye subsidy granted to the farmers in 1930 and 1931 will be discontinued as from July 1st. In its stead the Government proposes to relieve the farmers by suspending the collection of the Land Tax and to make up the loss of the Treasury from the proceeds of the milling tax on wheat and rye, which is nothing short of a consumption tax on bread. The discontinuation of the Boletta system (wheat and rye subsidy) was promised by the Government to the Financial Committee of the League in October last, as it has involved considerable expenditure from the public Exchequer. It is a point in favour of the new relief scheme that its advantages will go to the smallholders, whereas the Boletta system benefited only the medium and large estates.

Great pressure is being brought to bear on the National Bank to reduce its discount rate, which is 7 per cent. at present. In all probability the Bank rate will be reduced shortly by ½ per cent. The last return of the National Bank, dated April 7th, is not very satisfactory, as it shows that the credit system of the country has almost lost its flexibility. The first quarter of the year is normally marked by a seasonal decline both in the note circulation and in the bill portfolio. This year the decrease has been proportionately considerably below that of last year. In 1931 the note circulation declined from 469.2 million pengö at the beginning of the year to 366 million pengö, a decrease of more than 103 million pengö, or 22 per cent.; whereas in 1932 the contraction from 422.8 million pengö

to 360.1 million pengö is less than 15 per cent. The same phenomenon is manifest in the bill portfolio, which last year decreased from 297.7 million pengö to 236.5 million pengö, whereas this year the bills discounted (including rediscounts with the B.I.S.) have decreased from 589 million pengö on January 1st to 549.5 million pengö, a decrease of less than 7 per cent. as compared with a seasonal decline of more than 20 per cent. in the corresponding period in 1931. The gold cover of the National Bank fell to 96.4 million pengö, but the foreign exchange holding rose to 17.3 million pengö, so that the statutory cover amounted in the first week of April to 113.7 million pengö. The other liabilities of the bank have risen by 8.1 million pengö this week to 100.6 million pengö. This is explained by the fact that the "Foreign Creditors Fund," to which the non-transferable sums of the interest and amortisation services are paid in pengö, is not shown separately in the Bank's return, but figures among "other" liabilities. It is estimated that the amount held now by the "Foreign Creditors Fund" is about 40 million pengö.

SWEDEN.

Kreuger Affair — Skandinaviska Bank and National Bank.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, April 11.

SCARCELY anything has contributed so greatly towards unveiling the veil of secrecy around the Kreuger catastrophe as the report given at the meeting of the Skandinaviska Bank on to the connection of this bank and the National Bank with the Kreuger concern. The information furnished also casts an entirely new light on the whole of our economic development during the past year, and, not least, the events surrounding the abandonment of the gold standard are placed in an unexpected light. The Kreuger concern, and thereby the Skandinaviska Bank and National Bank of Sweden, are to a considerable extent responsible for Sweden's departure from the gold standard owing to the enormous credits which were asked and granted.

The report of the statement made at the general meeting of the Skandinaviska Bank is scarcely complete, but it makes the development clear in its main features. The course of events was as follows. Even at the end of 1930 the Kreuger concern had begun to suffer from difficulties of liquidity. It was, therefore, compelled in an ever-increasing degree to lay claim to the services of its special banking connection, the Skandinaviska Bank, as it became more and more impossible to procure credits on the international finance market. Between November, 1930, and February, 1931, the credits still kept to the figure of about 50 million crowns, but very shortly afterwards they jumped up so quickly that in March they were 180 million crowns. To what extent repayments were subsequently effected does not appear from the report, but in September they had further risen to 200 million crowns. On account of the enormous withdrawals of foreign investments entailed by the crisis of liquidity and confidence of the summer, the Skandinaviska Bank was no longer able to be responsible itself for its credits to the Kreuger concern, but had to call for the assistance of the National Bank, and, after this, the National Bank had to allow the concern direct further credits to the amount of 40 million crowns, in which connection a number of securities pledged with the Skandinaviska Bank were transferred to the National Bank, while the Skandinaviska Bank had to sign a guarantee for half this amount.

The co-operation between the Skandinaviska Bank and the National Bank in the financing of the Kreuger concern, which is thus revealed, had in actual fact begun much earlier. When the concern required 32 million crowns in February last year, in order to meet its loan agreement with Poland, the Skandinaviska Bank had obtained the consent of the National Bank before the credit was given, and this procedure was continued thereafter. The same applied in April when the concern had to obtain 35 million dollars in order to be able to make its last payment of hte loan to Germany. The responsibility of the National Bank for what occurred is, therefore, indisputable, and the final effect, as is now known, was that the State had to step in and assist the Skandinaviska Bank to the extent of no less than 215 million crowns in order to rescue the institution from the difficulties involved by the Kreuger crash.

The following conclusion may be drawn from the information given at the general meeting of the Skandinaviska Bank: the Kreuger concern obtained credits of 240 million crowns during the past year from the Skandinaviska Bank and the National Bank alone. It is still an open question as to what extent the concern may also have obtained credits from other Swedish banks at the same time. Sweden has, in fact been compelled, through the Kreuger concern, to finance foreign businesses outside our interests and considerably beyond our resources. It may be difficult to determine to what extent these credits have been disposed of for settlements abroad. It appears, however, more than probable that this has been done to a very large extent. It evidently happened in respect of the 32 million crowns for the Polish loan, and also the 35 million dollars for the German loan. It is, moreover, clear that about 50 million crows of last year's distributions of dividends by the concern have gone abroad. (This is without regard to the Match Company's spring coupon for 27 million crowns, of which about 19½ million crowns would appear to have gone abroad.) These transactions alone involve about 210 million crowns, which in reality the National Bank of Sweden has placed at the disposal of the foreigner. Certainly this did not take place immediately on putting through the respective transactions, as the Skandinaviska Bank, of course, granted the credits; but the National Bank was fully aware that it would have to step in itself if the Skandinaviska Bank should get into difficulties, which in fact happened in the autumn. Moreover, it was the National Bank which finally had the responsibility for our currency reserves being drained by such enormous amounts at a time when the exchange was extremely sensitive. Even to an observer with much less information before him than had the National Bank, it was clear last spring that the adverse balance in our balance of trade would place abnormal demands on our currency reserves. For the first five months of the year, the surplus of imports amounted to 180 million crowns and the holding of currencies by the National Bank was reduced by 110 million crowns, and at the same time nobody could fail to see that the influx of foreign floating capital involved a dangerous factor of uncertainty.

Under such circumstances, how is the mode of procedure of the Skandinaviska Bank and the National Bank to be explained? It must be admitted that it was difficult last spring for anybody to foresee the devastating crisis which broke loose with the failure of the Credit Anstalt. Even apart from this, however, the consequences for our currency reserves must have been clear to the National Bank, especially during the autumn months, when, however, the grants of credits to the Kreuger concern were further increased in spite of this. It is therefore clear that both the Skandinaviska Bank and the National Bank have all along foreseen these consequences, and the National Bank would appear to have been faced for a whole year with the question whether it should take upon itself the responsibility of overthrowing the Kreuger concern.

The question arises whether it was necessary to allow the concern, in this state of affairs, to distribute dividends which, for the first half of last year, including the Match Company, amounted to 88 million crowns, and of which, moreover, about 69 million crowns would appear to have gone abroad. In reality it was, of course, the National Bank which had to advance these funds, and there is still greater reason to ask why the National Bank did not in good time last year take up the foreign currency loan which it was impossible to mobilise in September. The position is that Ivar Kreuger forced the National Bank to provide the amounts for his Polish and German loans, which amounts, according to the original

calculation, he was to have procured in the international money market. In other words, the National Bank has committed the same fault here as Ivar Kreuger, with the difference, however, that the latter speculated in the developments of the market and therefore delayed in procuring capital, but as the National Bank had to provide necessary currencies by drawing on its own currency reserve, it actually loaned floating capital to Poland and Germany. It should naturally have secured itself by taking up a long-dated loan from abroad. Reason for such action, moreover, already existed owing to the increasing adverse balance of the balance of trade. Such a loan could certainly have been placed on favourable terms in April, when the Kreuger concern got its 35 million dollars for the German loan.

Letters to the Editor.

THE ANGLO-IRISH TREATY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In spite of Mr. de Valera's retreat, in his argument about the Oath, from a legal to a moral claim, it is obviously premature—and therefore unwise—to cry out that the Treaty of 1921 is being violated. It is yet more unwise to employ spirited language as to the disagreeable punitive consequences which will be visited upon the Irish Free State for a violation of the Treaty which is, as yet, no more than hypothetical. Threats breed contentiousness, and contentiousness tends to precipitate conflicts which should, if possible, be avoided. It would be well if commentators would abstain from prejudging issues which await responsible solution. It would not, for instance, be inherently improper if a proposal for the revision of the Treaty were propounded from either side. For the Treaty has already been revised by the Agreement of December, 1925, which was duly ratified by both legislatures, and quite conceivably further cause for revision at some time or other may arise. The point is that revision must rest upon mutual consent, and not upon unilateral action. Contemporary history is rich in precedents for the procedure in such a case.

It is well to recall how profoundly the significance of Anglo-Irish relations has been changed during the post-War period. Ireland's strategic importance has waned to insignificant proportions with the coming of the League of Nations and of the Briand-Kellogg Pact. Political or constitutional control of Ireland by Great Britain has vanished with the advent of an equalitarian status for the Dominions and the Mother Country, which has been completed by the Statute of Westminster. There is an His Majesty's Government in Dublin no less than at Westminster; and it is to be hoped that nothing will be allowed to occur which would mar the decorum which ought to subsist between them, even if they come to be at issue on matters of grave importance. The gossamer threads of constitutional liaison between the component parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations are strong, and not a little of their strength has been proved to lie in their elasticity. Constitutional development from precedent to precedent has marched apace. It should not be overlooked that it is upon the basis thus attained that all the high hopes of an Imperial economic unity, or at least co-operation, to be achieved at Ottawa are founded. Thus we reach the conclusion that the only significant factor in Anglo-Irish relations to-day is no longer strategic nor political but economic, and that the most binding ties are those which mutual economic benefit and the inter-linking of economic arrangements create with the irresistible force of natural growth. A conflict, of which there is some glib talk amongst the less responsible, would be a tragedy—an injury wellnigh insupportable to Ireland and a source of grave loss and inconvenience to Britain. Britain herself has so preponderating a weight to throw into the scale if necessary that she can afford to bear herself with a patient and forbearing courtesy in the pending discussions. It is to be hoped their stress will be laid upon matters of substance rather than upon "the letter of the bond."

The Irish Free State as an economic body must necessarily respond to the gravitational pull of Britain's economic mass and she scarcely can stray, or desire to stray, from her appointed orbit. Ireland can practise economic nationalism to [illegible] content. If she thrives on it, her prosperity will make her a more profitable customer for Britain. If she does not thrive, will at the least be more dependent on Britain. And [illegible] with her £150 millions or more invested in Irish [illegible] be always solicitous for Britain's economic welfare, so Britain with her predominant, virtually monopolistic, interests in Irish shipping, banking, insurance and railways must participate heavily in any economic adversity that might befall Ireland.—I am, etc.,

HIBERNIAN.

[We comment on this question in a leading article.—ED., *Economist*.]

THE VALUATION OF STERLING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Professor Gustav Cassel has recently stated that "a simple calculation will show that . . . on the basis of its purchasing power parity the pound ought to have been (January, 1932) worth 4·35 dollars." The calculation is certainly "simple" enough, but in view of the great issues which depend upon proper realisation of the relative values of the world's currencies, a protest should be registered against applying even "simple" calculations to the entirely unsuitable data used for comparing the "purchasing power" of currencies in different countries.

Whatever the merits of the "purchasing power parity" theory may be for the purpose of reaching ideas as to the *equilibrium* values of currencies, the utility of it must depend largely upon the suitability of the data to which it is applied. Professor Cassel—as is not uncommon with economists—takes any data already conveniently available which seem to be applicable to the case, without investigating whether they really are properly applicable. The Irving Fisher index of wholesale prices in the U.S.A. (based upon the prices of 200 commodities), and the *Economist* index in this country (based upon the prices of 58 commodities), however, were not constructed in conjunction for the purpose of comparing "purchasing power" in the two countries, and it is as erroneous to assume that they are proper for this comparison as it is to assume that the comparison of the average handicaps of the members of 200 American golf clubs with the corresponding average of 58 British clubs affords a measure of the relative golfing ability of the two countries. A detailed analysis of the indices would be necessary to demonstrate fully the unsuitability of the material as a measure of comparative currency values, but two points may be illustrated.

The material for the indices in both countries includes an item for rubber. Neither country produces rubber, but both purchase it in the same markets. A comparison of the quotations for rubber prices in the two countries shows that one is generally nearly the same as the other, converted at the *ruling* rate of exchange. Thus, in using these indices as a means of determining the "equilibrium" exchange rates we are permitting the ruling exchange rate to exercise some influence. If only articles of this character were included in the construction of the index, the conclusion would be reached that the so-called "true" value of the exchange was the ruling value. To what extent the prices of various items occurring in the two indices are already connected through the ruling exchange it is difficult to say, but the mere fact that a number of them are must vitiate the use of the indices for determining the "equilibrium" exchange.

At the other end of the scale there may be articles in which the ruling exchange has no effect on the prices—*e.g.*, bricks. For most of the commodities on which the indices are based, however, the ruling exchange will have some influence on the relative prices in the two countries, though it may be remote. An illustration of this type of article is afforded by the case of hides. Each country has a native supply and each country draws upon supplies from various parts of the world. The following figures (compiled from data in *The Leather World*) compare the indices of native hide prices in the two countries (and also in France and Germany) at the end of August last and the end of March :—

	United Kingdom.	United States.	France.	Germany.
End of August...	100	100	100	100
End of March ...	98	62	50	70

The rate of exchange required to give parity between the United Kingdom and United States indices is 3·07 dollars to the pound, while the figure in the case of the United Kingdom and France is 62 francs to the pound. It would take too much space to give the full reasons for the marked disparity between the movements in this country and in the others, but one of them—which is probably generally applicable—is that the question of "time lag" is much more important now than previously. The prices will *tend* to get on a parity at the ruling rate of exchange, but the process of doing so is now very sluggish.

If the use of data relating to certain articles employed in the indices leads to a figure of about 3·80 dollars to the pound and the use of others leads to a figure of 3·07, while, when all of them are used together, according to Professor Cassel,

the figure is 4·35, it would seem that the use of others would lead to a very high figure. In other words, though the average figure may be 4·35, the variations from the average in individual cases may be as much as 30 per cent. This fact alone should cause us to be suspicious of the practical value of the "purchasing power parity" theory.

The selection of a group of articles in the two countries which can be used to form a satisfactory basis for comparing "purchasing power" in the countries is an interesting but difficult task. The more the matter is thought over the more complex it appears, and we are justified in asking that those who publish views as to what the value of sterling *should* be, based on "purchasing power parity," should show how these difficulties can be overcome; if they cannot, the figures they announce have no particular value as a contribution to the discussion of the problem of sterling.—Yours faithfully,

E. C. SNOW.

"Thornhill,"
Kenley, Surrey.
April 13, 1932.

THE BEET SUGAR SUBSIDY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Nothing has so far transpired as to the intention of the Government in respect of the application for increased assistance made by the home-grown beet industry. The situation thus naturally continues to give much concern to persons dependent on the old sugar-refining industry and its associated and allied trades.

There have appeared in your correspondence columns recently interesting letters showing the extravagance of the sugar beet subsidy, and the wastefulness of encouraging the subsidised factories to produce white sugar to the detriment of the self-supporting refineries. I trust you will permit me, as representing a town which, like London and Liverpool, is closely interested in the refining of both foreign and Dominion and Colonial-grown sugar, to state a few facts on this important subject.

My chief object is to emphasise that, in the event of the Government acceding to the suggestion that the beet factories should receive assistance amounting to 16s. 4d. per cwt., this would have a disastrous effect on the old refineries—quite apart from the enormous loss to the Exchequer which would be involved. In the second subsidy period of the Act, when the assistance was only slightly over the above figure, the quantity of home-grown sugar produced was advancing at the rate of about 100,000 tons per annum, and during the last year it amounted to 420,000 tons. Had the subsidy continued at the same rate, the quantity would no doubt have continued to increase. If, therefore, it is restored to a similar level, it can be expected to advance again.

But that is by no means all. The tonnage of imported raw sugar being worked by the "home-grown" factories is also increasing to a serious extent, and amounted last year to about 240,000 tons. Now, the total consumption of the country is only about 2,000,000 tons, so that, adding the output of subsidised beet to that of imported raw, it will be easily seen what a disastrous percentage of the total consumption would be monopolised by the home-grown factories. Even as it is, the output from Greenock refineries is being restricted owing to this competition. The working of imported sugar in subsidised factories, in many cases built with money guaranteed by the Government, is, as a matter of fact, becoming as great a menace as the production of subsidised beet, and is an injustice which calls urgently for the attention of His Majesty's Government.

There are two staple industries in Greenock—shipbuilding and sugar refining. The shipbuilding industry here is almost at a complete standstill, and, therefore, any serious blow to the remaining industry of sugar refining would be a disaster of great magnitude to the town. Independently of the labour employed directly in sugar refining, there are many auxiliary trades which would be affected. These trades give employment to a large number of people—transport workers, dock labourers, coopers, box makers, tinsmiths, jute bag workers, engineers, coppersmiths, charcoal makers, &c. The annual consumption of coal in the Greenock refineries, when fully employed, amounts to about 150,000 tons, and it is estimated that an additional 30,000 tons are consumed in the allied trades, and for transport purposes.

The Greenock Harbour Trust is almost entirely dependent on the sugar trade for the revenue necessary for the maintenance of its harbours, wharves and other property.

In conclusion, I am pleased to be able to state that, appreciating the parlous condition of the industry, Glasgow, Liverpool and Greenock Chambers of Commerce passed resolutions expressing concern at the effects which the suggested changes might have on the old-established sugar-refining industry, and suggesting that the matter should receive the Government's most careful attention.—I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
JOHN DRUMMOND, JR.
Provost of Greenock.

Provost's Room,
Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—It is somewhat discouraging to those who are enthusiastic in the cause of economy to find that the sum of £2,400,000 has been allocated for sugar beet subsidy in the 1932 estimates, especially when it is realised that further substantial assistance will reach the sugar beet industry through the medium of duty preferences.

I quite realise that the sugar beet subsidy was given for ten years and is therefore in the nature of a contract which cannot lightly be broken, but there are several ways in which the outpouring of national funds for this pampered industry might, at this period of crisis, be limited and controlled in the public interest.

In the first place, under the Trade Facilities Acts, loans over £2,200,000 in value have been guaranteed to the factory companies. Of this, some £171,180 has already been lost, and more may be in the future. In view, however, of the large profits made by many of the factories it is not unreasonable to suggest that some portion thereof might be allocated to making good these losses of public money.

In the second place, immediate steps ought to be taken to prevent any of the factories carrying their operations on sugar beyond the "raw" stage. To the extent that they do so and carry out refining operations, it only means that for every man they employ another is thrown out of work in one of the self-supporting refineries of Liverpool or London! It is, I believe, satisfactorily proved from experience both in this country and on the Continent that sugar beet factories can operate with equal economy if they cease operations at the raw sugar stage. To allow them to proceed farther produces grossly unfair competition between subsidised and non-subsidised undertakings, all at the taxpayers' expense.

Assistance to the sugar beet industry in this country now amounts to 12s. a cwt. on an article worth 6s. in world markets, i.e., the equivalent of a 200 per cent. *ad valorem* protection! If wheat growers were asking for the same rate of protection under the Wheat Quota Bill they would have to demand a guaranteed price of nearly 90s. per cwt.!

Finally, the sugar subsidy scheme, as at present arranged, seems to be superfluous now that the National Government is embarking on a policy of wholesale protection for agriculture, and Imperial Preference. If it were wisely controlled, our farmers would be able to concentrate on other crops at less expense to the taxpayer; our Colonies, which can produce sugar three or four times cheaper than we can in this country, would be able to offer useful markets for our manufactured goods in return for the consequent encouragement of their sugar production; whilst our refineries could work with far greater efficiency with their output increased by the elimination of redundant refining in subsidised sugar beet factories.—

Yours faithfully,
A. ENGLAND,
Ex-M.P., Heywood and Radcliffe Division.

Cannon Street,
Manchester.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—After the interesting correspondence which has appeared in your columns on the sugar-beet "ramp," it will be interesting to see what action is taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regard to this matter in his forthcoming Budget.

At the present time the sugar duties give protection to the British sugar-beet industry equivalent to about 100 per cent. *ad valorem*. This is in *addition* to the subsidy, and the two together give a protection of about 200 per cent., or 12s. per cwt., as against the preference of only 3s. 9d. which we accord to our sugar-producing Colonies! Although the latter can produce sugar far more cheaply than we can in this country, such a weighting of the scales in favour of home-produced sugar damages their market very seriously.

Again, the present detailed arrangement of the sugar duties gives direct encouragement to sugar-beet factories, not only to produce "white" sugar as opposed to "raw" from British beet, but to *import* foreign raws for refining purposes during the "off" seasons. This has led to grossly unfair competition with the non-subsidised refineries on whose large throughput

and consequent efficiency the consumer is vitally dependent for cheap sugar supplies.

Here are two points which clearly call for attention in the Budget that is to be opened on April 19th.—Yours, etc.,

"TAXPAYER."

Taunton.
March 22nd.

[Reference to The Sugar-Beet Subsidy will be found in a Note of the Week on page 846.—ED., *Economist*.]

RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Lord Strathspey assumes, in his letter in your issue of March 19th, that road vehicles reduce the total cost of transport. As a matter of fact, they increase it, just as I should increase the real cost of business statistics if I were a millionaire and foolish enough to start a rival to the *Economist*, offering the same kind of information. All the costs of transport in any country have to be paid by the people of that country; therefore when, as in England, we have the roads congested with heavy vehicles while railway trains are running half empty, the cost of transport is needlessly high.

It is very convenient for the spokesmen of the road concerns to lump all motor taxation together, as they obtain a nice large total. But if they had to give the amounts paid by the heavy vehicles—lorries, tractors, coaches and omnibuses—the result would be very different. These heavy vehicles cost the ratepayer from £40 to £50 millions a year directly, not to mention indirect costs; I doubt if they pay as much as £20 millions, even with the petrol duty, which is not paid if they are driven by steam, heavy oil, town gas, or electricity. I am not sure that motor owners can claim the yield of the petrol duty as their contribution to road costs; if they do, the vehicles driven by any other motive power ought to pay an equivalent either in licence duty or in a mileage tax. Does the brewer claim that the yield of the beer duty shall be used to increase the amenities of the public-house?

Industry has little to gain from road transport except the convenience of door-to-door conveyance, which is worth paying for. What the heavy industries want is lower railway rates. Road competition, by skimming the cream off the railway traffics, is more likely to raise railway rates.—Yours, etc.,

J. E. ALLEN.

2 St. Peter's Terrace, Cambridge.
March 21, 1932.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Lord Strathspey, in giving figures in the Road *v.* Rail controversy, overlooks the fact that the alleged injustice lies against commercial and public service vehicles, those taxed on h.p. being really outside the controversy. The private owners' sympathies must really lie more on the side of the railways, since he supplies a disproportionate amount of funds for the damage caused by him to the roads, in order to make them more dangerous for him by the introduction thereon of what are rapidly tending to become motor trains.

For the year 1930 the yield from motor vehicles taxation was £37 millions, but excluding £13.2 millions levied on the h.p. category it will be found that amounts paid were as follows:—

£9.2 millions for goods, agricultural vans, lorries and tractors;

£3 millions for motor hackney vehicles;

omitting the lesser amounts for cycles, invalid carriages, showman's vehicles, motor ploughs, agricultural tractors, general and limited trade licences, since these can hardly enter into the controversy.

In regard to motor hackney vehicles, if the analysis of figures published in the Motor Transport Year Book be considered it will be found that there has been a pronounced shift from small capacity to the larger kind, obviously more detrimental both to the road surface as well as interests of the h.p. category.

	1927.	1930.
Seating capacity up to 32 ...	87,242 ...	88,605
" " 32 " 64 ...	8,275 ...	12,464
Over 64 ...	9 ...	58

In considering the petrol tax, it should be borne in mind that a large portion of this is not only borne by the h.p. category but also by aeroplanes, so it is hardly accurate to include this figure in respect of costs which the chief competitors of the railways have to bear.

The private motorist is probably as anxious to see a weeding-out of his formidable road rivals as the railways, for it is hard enough for a 7 h.p. to be forced into the ditch by a 6-ton lorry as well as seeing his taxation made an excuse for multiplying his juggernaut rivals.—Yours, etc.,

A. N. STUART-MENTEITH.

[illegible]
March 30, 1932.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Rand Gold Mines. By E. Sturzenegger. Published by the Author at 4, Copthall Buildings, London, E.C.2. 10s. 6d.

A statistical account of the position and prospects of individual companies.

The Dragon's Teeth. By Major-General J. F. C. Fuller. (London) Constable and Company, Limited, 10-12, Orange Street. 10s. net.

A historical and critical study of war.

Poland, 1914-1931. By Robert Machray. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Limited, Museum Street, 15s. net.

The Banking Systems of Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States of America. By Kenneth Mackenzie. (London) Macmillan and Company, Limited, St. Martin's Street. 3s. 6d. net.

British Empire Trade Index, 1931-32. (London) Business Dictionaries, Limited, 8/9 Johnson's Court. 5s.

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Part I., 1932. (London) Royal Statistical Society, 9, Adelphi Terrace. 7s. 6d.

Includes a discussion on the balance of trade, opened by Dr. Snow.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

British Documents on the Origins of the War, Vol. VII: *The Agadir Crisis.* 17s. 6d. net.

Papers relating to the Parliamentary Oath of Allegiance in the Irish Free State and the Land Purchase Annuities. Cmd. 4056. 2d. net.

Second Report on the Profitableness of Farming in Scotland. 1s. 3d. net.

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The Stock Exchange.

STOCK EXCHANGE OUTLOOK.

THERE is only one part of the London Stock Exchange to-day in which business is freely and actively transacted—the gilt-edged market. In some respects this market has reverted to its position of twelve months ago, as if the departure from the gold standard and the threatened financial breakdown of Central and South-Eastern Europe were disagreeable episodes which could now be forgotten. We may recall that a year ago money was becoming cheap, Bank rate being 3 per cent. and the market rate for three months' bills $2\frac{9}{16}$ per cent. The Budget of April, 1931, though it failed to restore the credit of the Government or to improve the national finances, opened the way for a striking advance in British Government funds merely by avoiding a further increase in direct taxation. Thus, the gilt-edged market a year ago advanced to a yield basis, approximately, of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for British Government funds until the financial crisis abroad and at home began to upset confidence in sterling.

To-day, the market is again enjoying the benefit of cheap money, in spite of alarums and excursions abroad. The "disgrace" of the departure from gold has been lived down, the Budget has been balanced, the credit of the Government has been restored, and the protection of a depreciated exchange (not to mention a new tariff system) has suggested that the international account is by way of being balanced. Thus, although the financial crisis in Europe is worse than it was a year ago, although the postponement of the Reparations Conference to June has merely allowed conditions to deteriorate in the Central and South-Eastern States, an opinion is gaining ground which, in its highest terms, is expressed in the circular of a stockbroking firm: "This country will not have to wait upon the settlement of the Reparations problem and the European financial crisis before experiencing the full effects of the cheap money phase. Bank rate will be reduced again, and interest rates will be lowered further to first-class borrowers independently of conditions on the Continent." In short, a substantial part of the market believes that the pressure of cheap money will exert its full force—that Bank rate will fall to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the yield of Government stocks will be driven down below 4 per cent.

The market, as always, tends to swing between extremes of optimism and pessimism, and some of the hopes of its more sanguine supporters may not be completely realised. Nevertheless, the movement has undoubted vitality. The warning hint of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the heavy burdens of direct taxpayers may have to be borne for another year—in other words, that 6d. may *not* come off the income tax—has had no appreciable effect upon quotations. The following figures, for which we are indebted to the Actuaries Investment Index, show the extent of the recent recovery in British Government and Home Corporation stocks:—

GILT-EDGED STOCKS.

	Price Index (December 31, 1928 = 100).					Average Yields (%).			
	Mar. 31, 1931.	June 30, 1931.	Dec. 29, 1931.	Feb. 23, 1932.	Mar. 29, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1931.	June 30, 1931.	Dec. 29, 1931.	Mar. 29, 1932.
British Government	103·0	103·4	92·9	99·1	107·9	4·42	4·16	4·85	4·18
Home Corporations	101·9	105·9	93·4	97·3	103·9	4·80	4·43	5·01	4·51

In view of the probability of a conversion operation, 5 per cent. War Loan has participated only slightly in the general advance. It is expected that the Chancellor may have something to say regarding a conversion offer in his Budget speech, but one section of opinion on the Stock Exchange, at least, declares that a waiting policy will advantage the Government—that the longer conversion is postponed, the cheaper the cost of refunding. For all practical purposes, however, the 5 per cent. War Loan is now regarded in the market as a short-dated security. As such, incidentally, it has attracted appreciable foreign buying.

Whether activity, based upon short-term monetary prospects, should extend to every stock quoted in the gilt-edged list is more than doubtful. India stocks may have been entitled to benefit as a result of the improved financial position of the India Government—assisted by the outflow of hoarded gold—but the advance in Australian and New Zealand Government stocks from a $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to a $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. yield basis appears to have been somewhat rapid. Budgetary equilibrium in these countries depends not merely upon the will of their Governments to balance expenditure with revenue, but also on economic factors such as the prices of primary products vital to their economy. Further, the Commonwealth Government has obtained judicial endorsement of its Financial Agreement Enforcement Act, but has not been able to supersede the obstreperous Premier of New South Wales. The following prices of representative Indian, Australian and New Zealand stocks given in the Actuaries' Index suggest that some of these stocks may recently have been carried forward by the momentum of British Government issues:—

DOMINION GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Prices (Dec. 31, 1928 = 100).		Gross Yield Per Cent. (allowing for Redemption).	
	Dec. 31, 1931.	April 13, 1932.	Dec. 31, 1931.	April 13, 1932.
Australia 5% 1945/75	90	90	6·57	5·51
Canada 4% 1940/60	81½	93	5·23	4·60
India 3½%	50	66½	7·05	5·25
New Zealand 4½% 1948/58 ...	83	90½	6·36	5·23
South Africa 4% 1943/63.....	77	87	5·69	4·89

The favourable outlook for gilt-edged stocks is shared by all utility and industrial fixed-interest stocks of irreproachable security. Opinions may differ, of course, as to the meaning of the latter term. It is significant, however, that whereas in last year's period of cheap money, prices of industrial debentures and preference shares showed no appreciable rise because the industrial future of the country was held to be in jeopardy, the investor is now tending, rightly or wrongly, to regard the depreciation of the £ and the new tariff system as protective forces for British industrial earnings. The prior charges of the leading industrial companies have thus begun to react to the influences of cheap money. In its broader aspects, the upward movement of fixed-interest securities of various degrees of intrinsic security may be seen in the representative groups recorded in the Actuaries' Investment Index as follows:—

DEBENTURE AND PREFERENCE STOCKS.

	Price Index (Dec. 31, 1928 = 100).				Average Yields Per Cent.			
	March 31, 1931.	June 30, 1931.	Dec. 29, 1931.	March 29, 1932.	March 31, 1931.	June 30, 1931.	Dec. 29, 1931.	March 29, 1932.
DEBENTURE.								
Investment Trusts	104·3	105·2	97·1	101·6	5·01	4·92	5·35	5·15
Industrial (Productive)	97·6	94·7	90·8	94·5	5·39	5·63	5·85	5·59
Do. (Miscellaneous)	103·1	102·9	96·0	100·0	5·39	5·35	5·73	5·46
INDUSTRIAL (ALL CLASSES COMBINED)*	98·6	98·1	89·4	94·1	5·61	5·72	6·13	5·85
PREFERENCE.								
Investment Trusts	103·0	102·3	94·5	96·9	5·27	5·28	5·75	5·51
Industrial (Productive)	93·7	96·2	85·0	88·6	6·25	6·75	6·13	5·85
Do. (Distributive)	79·7	86·0	64·4	67·9	5·96	6·60	8·36	8·05
Do. (Miscellaneous)	87·1	90·4	79·0	85·3	6·22	6·13	6·36	5·98
INDUSTRIAL (ALL CLASSES COMBINED)†	87·4	91·2	77·2	81·9	6·17	6·63	6·75	6·42

* 45 securities. † 90 securities.

Outside the range of gilt-edged and selected fixed-interest securities, however, the outlook for Stock Exchange markets is, to say the least, gloomy. The foreign bond market has gone from bad to worse. The situation of some Central and South-Eastern European countries is regarded as desperate and the prospects of international trade obscure. There is a widespread tendency, therefore, to write down an increasing number of bonds practically to " default " levels.

Finally, in the equity share markets, international counters have been unfavourably affected by liquidation from the Continent following the Kreuger collapse, the persistent weakness of the New York Stock Exchange, and the renewed fall in gold commodity prices. The position of British industrial equity shares is more complex. The expectation of a 33⅓ per cent. tariff on iron and steel imports caused a ripple on the surface of the iron and steel share market last weekend. It remains to be seen, however, whether the industries of this country will be able to show better results this year, or even to maintain last year's results if there is no rise in the internal price level. Companies depending on export trade can obviously expect no real revival as long as the volume of international trade continues to shrink under the blight of exchange restrictions, tariffs and falling commodity prices. No must it be forgotten that the new tariff system of Great Britain will reduce the purchasing power of the countries which formerly depended on their export trade to Great Britain.

The course of the equity share markets can be followed from the following table, based on the Actuaries' Index:—

INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY SHARES.

	Price Indexes (Dec. 31, 1928 = 100.)			Average Yields (%).		
	Apr. 7, 1931.	Dec. 29, 1931.	Apr. 5, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1931.	Dec. 29, 1931.	Apr. 5, 1932.
Coal	64·5	64·6	60·6	6·48	4·45	4·61
Cotton	46·5	42·3	44·4	5·86	3·36	2·99
Electric light and power	97·3	90·8	97·4	5·08	5·46	5·00
Gas	98·9	94·2	102·8	6·21	6·51	5·85
Iron and steel	52·9	49·9	44 8	7·18	4·62	3·73
Electric supplies	88·7	82·4	89·3	6·43	6·55	6·17
Shipping	26·3	21·2	20·8	4·41	3·37	3·80
Stores and catering	69·3	58·8	67·2	7·52	7·08	5·75
Breweries and distilleries	80·0	59·4	69·4	7·89	10·00	8·09
INDUSTRIALS (ALL CLASSES COMBINED)*	59·7	49·3	52·5	6·88	6·94	5·48

* 132 stocks and shares.

It is a significant fact that dividend yields are lower, to-day, in many groups, than they were twelve months ago. In other words, prices have not fallen so as fully to discount dividend reductions. Shareholders would appear, therefore, to be taking an optimistic long view of British industrial recovery. Whether they are justified time will show.

The wide " spread " of industrial share yields is symptomatic of an obscure situation, which is scarcely likely to clear until international factors can be more closely appreciated. Purely national causes, like cheap money, may favourably determine the immediate outlook for gilt-edged stocks, but cheap money is itself a consequence of trade stagnation. The success of Great Britain's efforts to put her financial house in order has attracted, and is attracting, appreciable amounts of foreign money to these shores, some of which is swelling the upward movement in the highest grade fixed-interest stocks. But this, again, is as much a portent of distrust of other currencies as a tribute to sterling. There have been minor price rises in British industrial ordinary shares in recent months, but they have invariably been halted after a very few days. Hope and propaganda, both powerful market agents in normal times, are to-day able, occasionally, to start movements in equities, but not to sustain them. In any case, the yield on British industrials is already lower than on the majority of ordinary shares in other countries. For the present, therefore, it may be surmised that investment interest will continue to be focussed rather on the best fixed-interest stocks, whose status is beyond cavil.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
April 19.	April 21.

THE week was colourless, gilt-edged stocks alone showing firmness. The revealed divergence of American and French views on armaments was not a bull point for European stocks, Danubian issues, in particular, being irregular. The gilt-edged market, having expected no change in Bank rate, was not disappointed with the Bank's decision. Little interest was shown in industrials, despite the slight fillip given by the March overseas trade figures. More speculative stocks reflected the somewhat harder tone of commodity prices, and the tendency of Paris, from time to time, cautiously to " nibble " at her favourites. Generally, however, a subdued tone obtained, which was not inappropriate to a pre-Budget week in a period of wide uncertainty.

Steady investment demand caused rises throughout the gilt-edged list, not excluding War Loan. Treasury bonds were firm. India loans strengthened in sympathy. Australians were inclined to sag, but the scrip of the New Zealand Loan steadily rose towards par. Other recent issues maintained a premium, and although nearly three-fourths of the Agricultural Mortgage issue was taken by underwriters, a premium of 1¼ was established.

Argentine bonds showed more resistance than had been expected to selling on the first exaggerated news of volcanic damage, and made good recovery on more reassuring reports. Despite President Hindenburg's majority, German bonds were sold at the outset on the increase in the Hitler pool, but subsequently became harder. South-Eastern European issues remained depressed. Sino-Japanese stocks were better despite the continuance of an anomalous situation.

Home rails hardened at first, but were sold on the publication of traffic figures which made disappointing comparison with Bank Holiday week last year. Prior charges were easier, but retained much of their recent rise. The sensitivity of the market for Argentine rails was illustrated by the sharp decline in quotations on the first news of volcanic disturbances, but subsequent official statements induced a mild recovery.

Though the volume of dealings in industrial shares was broadly maintained, conditions were irregular. A speculative movement arose in iron and steel shares on inspired statements of a forthcoming tariff, but lacked vitality and speedily expired. Electrical supply shares were steady, but Associated Electrical Industries were sharply marked down on a disappointing dividend. General Electric were lower in sympathy, but, looking cheap, recovered. Brewery shares were supported on prospects of Budget concessions, despite the depressing consumption figures. Kreuger and Toll and Swedish Match reached new low levels. The latest developments are recorded in an Investment Note on page 863. Cables and Wireless tended again to lose ground, the market awaiting the report with a certain impatience. Imperial Chemical were unchanged on the not over-informative speech of the chairman, which is summarised on page 865. Textiles remained dull. Tobacco shares were easier on scattered selling. Unilever were firm on the results for 1931 (set out on page 868), which the market, though unable fully to explain, considered particularly satisfactory. Quotations for insurance showed a tendency to recede, and overseas banking shares were heavy, Anglo-South America especially suffering a sharp decline.

The rubber share market showed symptoms of being oversold. Though intermittent liquidation continued, a small volume of inquiries gave quotations a steadier appearances, until unsatisfactory American consumption figures forced prices down. Dull and uninteresting conditions ruled in the tea share market at the outset, but a mild speculative inquiry was received later, inspired by optimism concerning a possible duty on imports of Dutch teas in next week's Budget. The leading oil shares were firmer, anticipated selling from Paris and Amsterdam failing to mature.

(*Continued on page* 862.)

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITY PRICES AND YIELDS.

Note.—*Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest, are distinguished by italics.*

In calculating yields on the stocks and shares quoted below allowance is made for interest accrued since the last payment. Where stocks are definitely redeemable at a certain date the yield includes any profit or loss on redemption; where stocks are redeemable at or before a certain date the final date of repayment is taken when the stock stands at a discount and the earliest date when the quotation is above par. The return on ordinary stocks and shares is calculated on the dividends paid by the company during the last year.

Prices Year 1931. Highest.	Prices Year 1931. Lowest.	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Apr. 13) inclusive. Highest.	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Apr. 13) inclusive. Lowest.	Name of Security.	Price Apr. 6, 1932.	Price Apr. 13, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				British Funds.				
60⅞	49¾	61	54⅛	Consols 2½%	60⅛	60⅛	...	4 2 8
97	77¼	95	81¾	Consols 4%	94½	94¾	...	4 5 10
85½	67¾	84¾	73¾	Con. Loan 3½%	84	84½	+ ½	4 3 4
104¾	88¼	103¼	93	Do. 4½% 1940–44	102¾	102¾	...	4 7 0
108¼	93¾	108⅛	99	Do. 5% 1944–64	105¾x	105¾x	...	4 7 0
97¾	78	98¾	83¾	*Funding* 4% 1960–90	96x	96¾x	+ ¾	4 3 6
102¼	93	101	97⅛	Treasury 4½% 1932–34	100¾	100¾	...	4 3 3
103¼	93	102	98¾	Treasury 5% 1933–35	101¾	101⅛	− ¼	4 6 3
98¾	85	98	89¾	Victory Bonds 4%	97¼	98	+ ¾	4 2 0
104¾	90½	103	95¼	*War Loan* 5% 1929–47	102¼	103	+ ¾	4 19 0
70¼	57	70⅛	60¾	Local Loans 3%	69¾	70	+ ¼	4 5 9
46	29½	49¾	36	India 2½%	48	48	...	5 4 2
65½	34	59¾	42½	Do. 3%	57½	56½	−1	5 5 0
64¾	41	69¾	49¾	Do. 3½%	66¾	65¼	−1	5 6 9
86⅛	55	92¾	67¾	Do. 4½% 1958–68	90	90	...	5 4 6
106¾	94	107¾	97¾	Palestine 5% 42–67	105x	105x	...	4 7 6
110	90	110¼	103¾	Sudan 5½% Bonds	107x	108x	+1	5 1 10
99¾	87½	96¾	87¾	Ulster 4½% 45–75	95	96	+1	4 16 0
				Dom. & Colonial Govts.				
85½	58	93	77	Australia 5% 1945–75	90½	89½	−1	5 15 0
96¼	75	93¾	82	Canada 4% 1940–60	92¾	92¾	...	4 9 9
105¾	97	106¾	100½	Ceylon 6% 1936–51	106	106	...	5 3 0
101	87½	99½	91¾	Gold Coast 4½% 1956	99	99	...	4 12 10
105½	90	105¾	94¼	Kenya 5% 1948–58	104	105	+1	4 16 0
104½	92	105	93½	Nigeria 5% 1950–60	104	105	+1	4 14 0
80	46½	79½	65½	N.S. Wales 5% 35–55	74½	73½	−1	7 6 0
102¾	85	100½	84	N. Zealand 5% 1946	99	99	...	5 3 0
81	48	87¼	70	Queensland 5% 40–60	86½	83½	−3	6 5 0
105	82	101¾	90½	S. Africa 5% 1945–75	100¾	100¾	...	5 0 0
100	85½	99¾	88¾	Strts. Sett. 4½% 35–45	99	99	...	4 17 0
				Foreign Governments.				
88	53	77	67	Argentine 4% Rescis.	75	69½	−5½	7 17 3
105½	87	100¾	88	Austrian 6% 1923–43	98	93	−5	7 1 6
98¾	33½	49½	36	Do. 7% Int. red. by 1957	48	45½	−2½	15 11 3
56	29½	41½	31	B. Aires (Prov.) 3½%	37	32½	−4½	10 18 9
112½	89	108½	94	Belgian 7% red. by 1956	108	107¾	− ¼	6 10 0
83½	36	38	27	Bulgaria 7½% Loan	30½	27½	−3	27 5 0
75½	43	69	57½	Brazil 5% Fund, 1914	66½	60	−6½	8 6 9
79	28	46	34¾	Do. 6½% (1927)	45	38½	−6½	...
94	20	30	10	Chili 6% (1929)	20	20	...	...
52¾	33	43½	31	China 5% (1912)	38x	36x	−2	13 17 9
70¼	56	63	52	Do. 5% (1913)	61	58	−3	9 4 9
113½	78	103¾	77¾	Czechoslovakia 8%	100½x	87½x	−13	9 8 0
86¼	70	83¾	70	Danish 3%	70	70	...	4 6 9
87½	58	65	55	Danzig 6½%	58x	58x	...	11 4 3
85	66½	87¾	79½	Egypt Unified 4%	85½	87	+1½	4 15 0
76	35	50	45	Estonia 7% 1927	45	45	...	15 11 3
92¾	70	65	60	Finland 6% 1923	65	65	...	9 17 5
31½	20½	28	24⅛	French 4% (British)	24½	25	+ ½	4 3 6
30¾	20½	29¼	26¼	Do. 5%	26½	26½	− ¼	5 2 0
106	53	79	56¾	German 7%	71	67	−4	11 0 6
81½	37½	57½	45½	Do. 5½% Stg. Bds. 1930	50	47	−3	11 19 3
83½	59¾	66	29¾	Greek 6% Stab. Ln.	35	30	−5	20 0 0
104½	73	81½	35	Do. 7% Refugee	50	45	−5	15 11 3
103[illegible]	42	70	45	Hungary 7½%	55½	45½	−10	16 9 9
111	83	100½	82	Japanese 5½% 1935–65	85½	85½	...	6 12 6
105¾	77½	93¾	76⅛	Do. 6% (1924)	78½	78½	...	7 18 6
14½	5	10½	7	Mexican 5% (1899)	9½	8½	−1	...
98	78	90	78½	Norwegian 4% 1911	88	87	−1	4 13 0
83	40	55	40	Peru 7½% 1922	50	45	−5	16 13 6
86½	54	78	66½	Poland 7%	78	73	−5	9 11 9
104½	92	103	90½	Siamese 6% 1934–64	102½	102½	...	6 1 0
89	75	79	75	Swedish 3½% 1908	75	75	...	4 12 0
78½	39	67	50	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	62½	54	−8½	13 17 9
10¾	4	8	6	Turkish 4% Unified	7	6	−1	...
80	45	80	46½	Uruguay 5% 1919	50x	50x	...	10 0 0
				Corporation Stocks.				
84½	24½	46½	27¾	Berlin 6% 1932–57	38½	38½	...	15 11 9
107¾	94	105	98¾	B'gham 5% 1946–56	105	105	...	4 10 2
107¾	96	104½	99¾	Bristol 5% 1948–58	103	103	...	4 14 6
95¼	65	70	65	Danzig 7%	70	65	−5	10 15 3
101	93½	96½	90	E. London 5% 1960–70	94½	94½	...	5 8 0
105	97½	101½	98	Johannbg 5½% 1937–52	100½	100½	...	5 9 0
71	57	70	59½	L.C.C. 3%	69	69	...	4 6 11
73	57½	72	60¾	Met. Wat. Bd. B 3%	71	72	+1	4 4 0
107	94	106½	97	Pt. of Ldn. 5% 1950–70	105½	105½	...	4 13 0
112¾	87	106¾	98½	Seine 7% 1935–53	106½	106½	...	6 2 0
77	52	72	68	Sydney 5½% 1954	70	70	...	8 2 0
				British Railways.				
69½	38	48¾	38¾	G. Western Ord. Stk.	40½	39½	−1	7 12 0
8½	2¾	6¾	3½	L. & N.E't'n Def. Stk.	4	4¾	+¾	Nil
19½	6¾	14½	7¾	Do. 5% Pref. Ord.	8	9	+1	Nil
84¾	55¾	66	57	Do. 5% Pref. 1955	58½	58½	...	9 8 0
44½	18¾	33½	16½	Do. 4% 2nd Pref. Stk.	17¾	19¾	+2	5 2 7
34	13	20¾	15	L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	15½	16	+ ½	1 11 0
65¾	25½	38¾	28¾	4% Pref. Stk. 1923	30¾	31½	+1	12 14 0
68¾	34	40	33¾	Metropolitan Cons.	33¾	32¾	−1	7 13 9
77½	57½	69	61	Met. Dist. Ord. Stk.	61½	61¾	...	8 14 9
23¾	9¾	11½	8½	Southern Def. Stk.	9	9	...	Nil
66½	36	40½	32	Do. 5% Pref. Ord. Stk.	33½	32½	...	12 6 0
92¾	55½	67½	60	Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	60½	60¾	...	8 5 3
24/10½	17/3	20/-	17/10½	*Underground Ord.* £1	18/6	18/-	−6d	7 15 0
				Dom. & Foreign Rys.				
51½	15½	16½	12	Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	12	12	...	33 6 9
53	21	26	18	B.A. & Pacific Ord. Stk.	19	19	...	Nil
71½	27	41¾	25	B.A. Gt. Sthn. Ord. Stk.	29½	28	−1½	3 11 0
55	21¾	31¾	22	B.A. Western Ord. Stk.	24	23	−1	Nil
66	29	42¾	25	C. Argentine Ord. Stk.	28	28	...	3 8 0
73	14	17¾	9	C. Uruguay Monte V.	10½	10½	...	Nil
46¾	15¾	29¾	16½	*Can. Pacific Com.* ($25)	17¼	17	− ¼	6 15 0
71¾	63½	71¾	64¾	Can. Nat. 1927 Guar. 4%	70¾	71½	+1	5 14 0
16	4	5½	2	Cordoba Ord. Stk.	3½	3¾	...	Nil
29¾	11	11½	7	Do. 7% 1st Pref. Stk.	7	7	...	Nil
22¾	5	8½	3	Do. 5% 2nd Pref. Stk.	4	4	...	Nil
29	23	23	17½	Costa Rica Ord. Stk.	17½	17½	...	21 8 0
70¾	32	40	17	Entre Rios Ord. Stk.	19½	17	−2½	9 0 0
90	56½	62	40	6% Cum. Pref. Stk.	47	42½	−5	34 2 0
65½	42½	40½	22¾	Do. 4% 2nd Pref. Stk.	27¾	22¾	−5	17 16 0
				G.W. of Brazil £10			...	Nil
$13½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	In. Ry. C. Am. No par	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	...
26¾	11	16¾	12	Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	14	12½	−1½	Nil
55	19	28	20	Do. 5½% Cum. Pr. Stk.	24½	23½	−1	Nil
86/-	16/-	35/-	15/-	Nitrate Rlys. (£10)	20/-	15/-	−5/-	26 13 3

Prices Year 1931. Highest.	Prices Year 1931. Lowest.	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Apr. 13) inclusive. Highest.	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Apr. 13) inclusive. Lowest.	Name of Security.	Price Apr. 6, 1932.	Price Apr. 13, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				Foreign Rys.—cont.				
21	8	8	6½	Paraguay Cen. D. Db.	7	7	...	Nil
70/-	70/-	70/-	70/-	Salvador Ord. (£10)	70/-	70/-	...	Nil
150	94¾	108	94	San Paulo Ord. Stk.	106½	104½	...	6 14 0†
65/-	20/-	25/-	12/6	Taltal Rly. Ord. £5	17/6	17/6	...	14 6 9†
9½	2⅞	4½	2	Utd. Havana Ord. St.	3½	3½	...	Nil
				Banks.				
16/9	5/9	6/6	4/-	Anglo-French (£1)	5/-	4/3	−9d	Nil
11/6	8/9	9/3	8/9	Anglo Internatl. (£1)	9/-	9/-	...	Nil
6⅛	1⅜	37/6	11/3	Anglo S. American A £10 £5 pd	1	¾	− ¼	34 6 9
25/6	12/6	15/-	8/-	Anglo S. American B £1 fy pd.	11/3	9/6	−1/9	12 12 0
55/9	31/3	50/-	40/-	Bank of N. Zealand £1	47/6	42/6	−5/-	6 14 0
278½	230	276½	235	Bank of Eng. Stk.	275	274	−1	4 7 9
58/3	43/9	56/9	47/6	Barclay B. (£1)	56/6	56/-	− 6d	4 19 0
26/4½	19/9	25/-	21/6	Barcl. (Dom. &c.) A £1	25/-	25/-	...	3 18 0
9⅞	6⅛	8⅞	7⅝	Bk. of Australasia (£5)	7¾	7⅞	+ ¼	5 19 0
63	47	53	44	Bk. of Montreal ($100)	$49	$46½	−$2½	5 3 0
26	18¾	23½	21	Bk. of N.S.W. (£20)	21¼	21¼	...	7 8 9
5⅞	3¾	4⅞	3⅞	British Overseas A £5	4¾	4¾	...	6 13 3
17½	9¼	14	9⅞	Chtd. of India (£5)	11¾x	11¾x	...	6 0 0
14/9	9/7½	14/-	11/3	Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/-	12/-	12/6	+ 6d	9 0 0
66/6⅞	43/3	55/-	45/-	District A £5, £1 pd.	53/9	53/9	...	6 6 0
42/6	38/-	42/3	36/6⅞	Do. B £1 fully paid	40/-	40/-	...	8 0 0
4⅞	2⅞	87/6	77/6	Eng.Scot.&Aust.£5,£3pd	4	3⅞	− ⅛	6 3 0†
8⅞	6	5¼	5¼	Hambros £10, £2½ paid	5½	5¼	...	8 12 0
113½	93	105	92	Hong. and S. ($125)	£103	£102	−£1	5 17 8
63/9	38/-	52/-	41/9	Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	50/6	50/-	−6d	5 6 0
7⅛	4⅞	6	4⅞	Martins £20, £2½ pd.	6	5¾	− ¼	5 16 6
80/6	60/6	70/6	62/7½	Midland £1, fully pd.	70/-	70/-	...	4 11 0
31½	19	29½	21½	Nat. of Egypt £10	25½	25	− ½	6 15 0†
43¾	27½	38¾	28	Nat. of India £25, £12½ pd	£37x	£36	−£1	5 19 0
14⅞	9	12¾	9⅞	Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	12⅛	12⅛	...	5 6 0
357	295	354	310	Royal Bk. of Scotland	£353	£348	−5	4 18 0
14¾	9½	10⅞	8⅞	St. of S. Af. £20, £5 pd.	10½	10	− ½	7 10 0
80/10½	47/6	70/9	56/7½	Westminster £4, £1 pd.	70/-	70/-	...	5 2 6
				Insurance.				
21	16	20¾	16½	Alliance £1, fully pd.	21	20½	− ½	4 8 0
13¼	9	11¾	9⅞	Atlas £5, £1¼ pd.	11⅞	11⅝	− ¼	3 12 0†
24¾	16½	20¾	17	Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	20¼	19¾	− ½	5 5 0
15⅞	11	14⅛	11	Gen. Accident £5, £1¼ pd	14	13¾	− ¼	5 2 0
28¾	19¾	26¼	20	Lon. & Lanc. £5, £2 pd	25¼	24¾	− ½	4 1 0
34⅞	25¾	33¾	26	N.Brit.& Mer £5, £1¼ pd	31½	30	−1½	3 17 0
16⅛	12¾	15⅞	12½	Northern £10, £1 pd.	15¾	15½	− ¼	5 12 0
13¾	9¾	12¾	9¾	Pearl (£1), fully paid	12½	12	− ½	3 19 0†
14½	9⅞	13⅞	10	Phoenix £1, fully pd.	13½	13	− ½	5 7 0
24½	17½	22½	18	Prudential £1 A	22	21½	− ½	4 1 0†
40/-	28/9	40/-	30/-	Do. £1, with 4s. paid	38/9	38/9	...	3 5 6
6⅛	4⅞	6	4⅞	Royal Exchange (£1)	6	5¾	− ¼	4 11 0
8⅛	6⅞	7½	6⅛	Royal £1, 10s. paid	7⅞	7½	− ⅜	4 9 0
3⅞	3⅛	3⅞	3	Sea Insur., £1 fully pd.	3¼	3¼	...	5 6 0
3⅞	2⅞	3⅞	2⅞	Sun Insur., £1 with 5/- pd	3⅜	3⅛	− ⅛	4 2 0
5⅞	4⅞	5⅞	4⅞	Sun Life Assur., £1 fy pd	5⅛	5⅛	...	3 5 0†
14½	11¾	13⅛	11¾	Yorkshire £1, fully pd.	13	13	...	3 15 0†
				Investment Trusts.				
293	229	240	215	Anglo-American Deb.	235	235	...	6 7 9
149	85	95	85	Anglo-Celtic Ord.	93½	93½	...	8 0 6
21/6	10/-	14/-	10/-	*Atlas Electric, &c.*, £1	12/6	11/3	−1/3	5 6 9
28/9	17/9	22/3	17/6	Brit. Assets Trust 5/-	21/3	18/9	−2/6	5 6 9
185	156	154	147½	Debenture Corp. Stk.	152½	157½	+ 5	6 7 0
171	125½	125	100	For. Amer., &c., Def.	120	117½	−2½	8 7 3
110½	70½	70½	70½	Grange Trust	70½	70½	...	7 1 10
186	155	158½	154½	Guardian Investment	154½	154½	...	6 9 6
327	230½	247	198	Indus. & Gen. Ord.	245	236	−9	7 8 6
427	335	341	298	Invest. Trust Ord.	340	320	−20	6 5 0
22/-	15/-	17/10½	12/6	Lake View Invest. 10/-	17/-	17/-	...	7 12 0
318	236	245½	200	Mercantile Investment	214½	220	+5½	6 7 3
235	210	201	177	Merchants Trust Ord.	199	199	...	7 0 9
380	313	316	296	Metropolitan Trust	315	312	−3	6 9 0
92	50	50½	44½	Nineteen Twenty-eight	44½	44½	...	11 4 9
88	47½	42¾	42¾	Nineteen Twenty-nine	42½	42¾	...	9 8 3
18/3	10/-	10/9	9/6	Scottish Investment (5/-)	10/-	10/-	...	10 0 0
225½	185½	179½	175½	Scottish Mortgage, &c.	179½	175½	−4	6 10 0
104¾	50	55	55	Stockholders Invest.	55	55	...	9 1 9
87½	67	67½	67½	Trans-Oceanic £1	67½	67½	...	5 3 9
234	185	160	155	Trustees Corp. Ord.	155	155	...	7 14 9
243	185	188½	182	United States Deb.	182	182	...	6 17 3
				Financial Trusts, &c.				
29/-	15/-	18/9	11/6	Argentine Land, &c., £1	15/-	12/6	−2/6	6 8 0
39½	10	25	16	Australian Estates, &c.	20	20	...	Nil
4/6	2/-	3/6	2/3	Brit. Nth. Borneo £1	2/6	2/6	...	Nil
28/6	14/-	24/6	16/-	Brit. S. Africa 15/- fy pd	17/3	17/-	−3d	4 6 0
18/10½	5/-	15/-	10/7½	Charterhouse Inv. £1	15/-	15/-	...	6 13 3
17/3	12/9	14/7½	13/1½	C. of London R. Pty. £1	13/9	13/9	...	8 0 0
6½	4	7½	6½	Dalgety £20, £5 pd.	6½	6½	...	5 6 0
13/10½	7/6	9/4½	5/-	Forestal Land £1	6/3	6/3	...	20 0 0
37/6	18/-	21/6	16/-	Hudson's Bay Co. £1	18/9	16/3	−2/6	Nil
4	2½	3	2⅛	Do. 5% Cum. Pref. £5	3	3	...	Nil
20/-	7/6	11/1½	6/10½	Java Invest., &c., £1	7/6	7/6	...	15 6 9
4⅞	1½	3⅜	1⅛	Peruvian Corp. Ord. Stk.	2½	2	− ½	Nil
23	8	13⅞	6	Peruvian Corp. Pref. Stk.	9	7	−2	Nil
24/3	12/9	17/-	13/6	*Primitiva Holdgs.* £1	15/6	13/6	−2/-	8 15 0
13/9	9/9	11/3	10/-	Staveley Trust £1	11/3	11/3	...	Nil
38/1½	14/6	29/4½	21/3	Sudan Plantations £1	26/10½	25/-	−1/10½	Nil
				Breweries, &c.				
23/9	17/9	23/4½	18/9	Allsopps Ord. £1	21/9	21/6	− 3d	8 0 0
27/9	18/-	24/3	17/10½	Barclay Perkins £1	23/-	24/-	+1/-	9 3 0
62/-	46/-	57/-	44/9	Bass Ratcliff Ord. £1	55/-	54/6	− 6d	6 7 6†
37/6	25/-	31/6	24/3	Benskins Watford £1	31/-	30/-	−1/-	7 3 0
12/-	6/3	8/3	5/1½	City of Lond. Def. 5/-	7/-	6/6	−6d	Nil
61/3	39/6	47/-	36/6	Courage Ord. £1	44/-x	44/-x	...	8 4 0
61/-	42/3	50/6	42/9	*Distillers Co. Ord.* £1	46/9	46/3	− 6d	8 10 0
108/9	79/6	86/6	77/-	Guinness (A)	80/-	80/-	...	8 15 0
62/3	44/-	53/6	43/-	Ind Coope Ord. £1	50/6	51/-	+6d	8 15 0
38/-	23/6	30/3	23/6	Meux's Ord. £1	27/-	27/-	...	8 3 0
53/-	30/-	46/7½	35/-	Mitchell & Butlers £1	45/-	45/-	...	6 17 6†
28/3	23/-	25/-	22/3	Ohlsson's Cape £1	24/-	24/-	...	8 8 0
62/-	49/3	50/6	45/-	S. African Bws. £1	49/-	48/-	−1/-	7 6 0
36/6	25/6	30/6	23/7½	Taylor Walker Ord. £1	28/-xd	28/-xd	...	7 3 0
56/-	38/-	48/-	32/-	W'tay Combe Def. £1	43/-	41/-	−2/-	9 4 0
				Coal, Iron and Steel.				
6/4½	2/-	4/0¾	2/9¾	Amal. Anthracite £1	3/-	3/-	...	Nil
14/7½	7/-	11/9	10/-	Do. 7% Cum. Pref. £1	11/3	10/-	−1/3	Nil
10½d	3d	7½d	4d	Armstrong Whit. A 1/-	6d	6d	...	Nil
58/3	37/10½	47/6	42/9	Babcock, *Wilcox* £1	44/3	45/-	+9d	6 4 [illegible]

† Free of Income Tax.

Prices Year 1931. Highest	Lowest	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Apr. 13) inclusive. Highest	Lowest	Name of Security.	Price Apr. 6, 1932.	Price Apr. 13, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				Coal, &c.—cont.				
4/3	1/4½	3/8½	2/0	Baldwins 4/-	2/3	2/6	+3d	Nil
7/6½	2/-	3/6	2/9	Bengal Iron £1	3/1½	3/1½	...	Nil
17/-	6/9	12/6	10/-	Beyer Peacock £1	12/6	12/6	...	12 16 0
19/9	10/-	20/1½	17/6	Bolsover Col'ry Ord. £1	17/6	17/6	...	8 0 0
4/6	1/-	2/1½	1/3	Brown (John) Ord. 6/-	1/6	1/6	...	Nil
3/10	9d	1/10½	6d.	Cammell Laird £1	9d	9d	...	Nil
9/10½	2/6	7/1½	4/9	Consett Iron £1	4/9	7/1½	+2/4½	Nil
[illegible]	44/6	57/6	50/7½	Cory, William, £1	56/3	55/-	−1/3	6 6 9
7/3	2/3	4/6	2/9	Dorman, Long £1	3/0	3/9	+9d	Nil
9/-	3/6	5/6½	3/6	Do. 8% Non.Cm.Pf.O.£1	3/6	4/4½	+10½d	Nil
3/6	3d	1/6	10½d	Ebbw Vale Ord. £1	1/-	1/-	...	Nil
8/2½	3d	1/-	4½d	Do. 7% Cum. Pref. £1	9d	9d	...	Nil
30/3	10/1½	17/3	10/10½	Guest Keen, &c. £1	11/-	13/9	+2/9	Nil
6/3	3/1½	5/10½	5/-	Hadfields £1	5/-	5/3	+3d	Nil
5/4½	1/10½	3/-	1/9	Har. & Wlf. 6% Cm. Pf.	2/3	2/3	...	Nil
23/7½	12/6	18/9	15/1½	Horden Collieries £1	16/3	16/3	...	6 2 0
[illegible]	20/7½	25/10½	21/3	Lambert Bros., £1	21/3	21/3	...	9 8 3
6/1½	2/6	5/-	3/6	Millom & Askam £1	3/9	3/9	...	Nil
13/3	6/3	9/6	6/10½	Ocean Coal & Wilsons	7/6	7/6	...	10 13 3
2/11	7½d	2/-	1/4½	Pease and Partners £1	1/9	1/9	...	Nil
10/1½	3/6	7/-	4/2½	Powell Duffryn £1	4/1½	5/-	+10½d	Nil
28/9	6/9	23/9	19/-	S. Durham Steel £1	20/7½	22/6	+1/10½	3 12 0
16/7½	3/3	7/1½	5/9	Do. B Ord. £1	7/1½	7/1½	...	Nil
28/-	16/9	27/6	25/3	Staveley Coal, &c. £1	27/1½	26/3	−10½d	4 11 0†
22/9	10/9	17/6½	12/6	Stewarts & Lloyds £1	13/9	14/4½	+7½d	Nil
16/3	11/3	15/-	12/6	Swan, Hunter £1	14/3x	15/-x	+9d	6 13 3
3/3	6d	1/11½	1/6	Thomas (Richard) £1	1/9	1/9	...	Nil
6/9	2/6	7/9	6/6	6½% Cm. Tax free Pf. £1	7/3	7/3	...	Nil
11/6	13/9	14/8½	11/10½	Thornycroft, John, £1	12/6	12/6	...	Nil
$125	$58¾	$75½	$43½	*U. States Steel* $100	$48½	$45½	−$3	8 2 0
11/3	6/-	9/2½	6/9	*Vickers* 6/8	7/3	7/3	...	4 8 8
13/9	14/1½	19/9	17/-	WeardaleSteel&c.Df.£1	18/1½	18/1½	...	6 13 0
				Textiles.				
[illegible]	2/-	4/-	2/9	B. Ctn. & Wool Ds. 5s.	3/6	3/6	...	Nil
16/-	6/6	15/6	10/3	Bleachers £1	12/6	12/1½	−4½d	Nil
23/7½	11/3	23/6	15/9	*Bradford Dyers* (£1)	19/4½	18/1½	−1/3	Nil
14/1½	3/6	11/3	6/3	*Brit. Celanese Ord.* (10/-)	7/9	6/9	−1/-	Nil
11/6	4/-	9/3	7/-	Do. 7% 1st Cm. Pf. £1	7/9	7/6	−3d	Nil
8/10½	3/6	7/10½	6/3	Do. 7½% 2nd Cm. Pf. £1	6/3	6/6	+3d	Nil
13/6	4/6	10/10½	7/3	Calico Printers £1	8/1½	7/6	−7½d	Nil
60/6	30/-	45/6	35/7½	*Coats, J. and P.* (£1)	40/7½	40/7½	...	4 18 6
46/7½	24/7½	37/9½	29/9	*Courtaulds* £1	32/6	32/-	−6d	3 2 0†
46/7½	19/3	30/6	25/7½	English Swg. Ctn. £1	28/9	27/6	−1/3	7 6 9
16/6	13/1½	15/-	11/10½	English Velvet, &c., £1	13/1½	13/1½	...	5 11 0
23/-	10/-	18/6	13/6	Fine Cotton Spinners £1	15/7½	15/-	−7½d	Nil
28/9	16/6	24/8½	21/3	Linen Thread (£1)	22/6	21/3	−1/3	5 15 0†
19/3	7/6	15/3	12/6	Listers (£1)	15/-	15/-	...	Nil
31/10½	17/3	30/6	26/6	Patons & Baldwins £1	27/6	27/6	...	1 15 6
—	...	48/1½	40/-	Snia Viscosa Lire 200	2½	2	−½	(Div. 6%)
[illegible]	41/1½	62/-	47/6	Whitworth&Mitchell £1	51/3	50/-	−1/3	9 0 0
				Electrical Manufactg.				
22/10½	13/-	23/9	17/-	*Associated Elec.* (£1)	22/-	17/6	−4/6	4 11 0
67/6	47/6	60/9	50/3	British Insulated (£1)	59/4½x	59/4½x	...	5 2 0
63/9	46/3	59/6	47/6	Callenders (£1)	57/6	57/6	...	5 3 0
21/6	17/6	19/-	17/6	Crompton Parkinson 5/-	18/9	18/9	...	8 0 0
11/3	2/9	10/3	5/-	English Electric £1	10/-	8/9	−1/3	Nil
61/-	34/9	44/3	35/3	*General Electric* (£1)	39/4½	38/1½	−1/3	5 3 0
6½	4½	5½	4⅞	Henleys (W. T.) (£1)	5⅝	5½	−⅛	5 15 0
31/3	23/9	23/9	19/4½	*Johnson & Phillips* £1	20/-	20/-	...	10 0 0
26/-	18/9	24/-	19/3	Siemens £1	22/6	21/3	−1/3	7 0 0
				Electric Light, &c.				
$20	$9¾	$19	$12½	Brazil Trac., no par	$12½	$12½	...	...
63/6	54/6	63/3	55/9	Bournemouth & Poole	62/-	62/-	...	4 18 0
45/9	37/6	42/-	28/9	Calcutta Electric £1	42/-	40/-	−2/-	7 0 0
33/6	30/9	31/9	27/3	Charing Cross Elec. £1	31/-x	31/-x	...	5 8 0
39/3	34/6	39/-	32/6	City of London £1	37/6x	37/6x	...	5 6 9
33/6	28/9	32/-	28/3	Clyde Valley Elec. £1	28/9x	28/9x	...	4 17 6
48/9	40/-	45/6	42/6	County of London £1	43/9x	43/9x	...	4 16 0
$111½	[illegible]	$116½	87	*Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.*	88½	88½	−8½	...
33/-	[illegible]	27/-	23/4½	Lancashire Electric £1	27/-	27/-	...	5 4 4
42/6	36/9	41/9	36/-	Metro. Electric £1	41/3	41/3	...	4 17 0
32/-	25/-	29/9	25/3	Midland Counties £1	28/9	28/9	...	4 17 6
29/9	26/6	24/9	22/1½	*Newcastle-on-Tyne* £1	24/3x	23/9x	−6d	5 0 0
49/3	41/-	46/-	41/3	North Metropolitan £1	45/-	45/-	...	4 9 0
33/6	29/4½	29/7½	26/-	Scottish Power £1	29/3x	28/9x	−6d	5 12 0
34/6	28/6	34/7½	28/7½	Yorkshire Electric £1	33/9	33/9	...	4 14 9
				Gas.				
28/9	17/6	20/7½	18/-	*Gas Light & Coke* £1	20/6	20/6	...	5 11 0
375	300	380	177½	Imp. Continental Stk.	185xb	177½	−7½	...
20/4½	15/-	18/-	15/-	Newc.-on-Tyne £1	17/3	18/-	+9d	5 19 0
120	98	104½	98	S. Metropolitan Stk.	103½	103½	...	5 15 0
				Telegraphs, &c.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	20½	13½	Cables and Wireless *A Ord. Stk.*	17	15	−2	Nil
[illegible]	8	12½	8½	Cables and Wireless *B Ord. Stk.*	10	9	−1	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	51½	42½	Cables and Wireless 5½% *Cm. Pref.*	47½	47½	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	24	19½	Great Northern £10	23	23	...	8 15 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	$27	$7	*International Telephone*	$8	$7	−$1	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	33/9	26/3	*Marconi Marine* £1	28/9x	26/3x	−2/6	7 12 6
				Motors and Cycles.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	30/-	23/1½	*Austin* 5/-	27/6	27/6	...	18 4 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	4/9	3/7½	Birm. Smal. Arms £1	4/3	3/9	−6d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	20/6	17/1½	*Dennis* 1/-	17/6	17/6	...	10 0 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	24/6	19/10½	*Ford Motors* £1	21/3	22/-	+9d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	3/3	1/6	Guy Motors (10/-)	2/-	2/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	68/6	57/6	Lucas (J.) £1	62/6	60/-	−2/6	6 13 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	37/3	30/4½	*Leyland* £1	36/3	35/-	−1/3	5 15 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	25/7½	20/9	Morris 7½% Cum. Pref. £1	23/6	23/6	...	6 10 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	6/1½	3/3	Napier 5/-	3/9	3/9	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	35/-	26/3	Rolls-Royce £1	35/-	35/-	...	5 14 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	9/9	6/3	Singer £1	8/9	8/9	...	Nil
				Shipping.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	7/7½	5/7½	Cunard £1	6/-	6/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	20/-	17/10½	*Furness Withy* £1	19/-	18/-	−1/-	8 6 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	20/6	17/3	P. & O. Defd. £1	19/-	18/-	−1/-	6 13 3†
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	4½	4½	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Do. 5½% Pref. Stk.	3⅜	3⅜	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2/3	White Star 6½% Pref.	3/-	3/-	...	Nil
				Tea and Rubber.				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4/6	Allied Sumatra £1	4/6	4/-	−6d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6/1½	Anglo-Dutch £1	6/6	6/6	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Assam Co. £1	15/-	15/-	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Bah Lias £1	5/-	3/9	−1/3	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Cons. Tea & Lands £10	7	7	...	3 12 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2/1½	Grand Cl. (Ceylon) £1	3/9	3/1½	−7½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jhanzie Tea £1	36/3	35/-	−1/3	8 0 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jorehaut Tea £1	33/9	32/6	−1/3	6 3 3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jokai (Assam) £1	28/9	26/3	−2/6	3 0 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Linggi Plantations £1	5/-	4/3	−9d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	London Asiatic 2/-	1/3	1/1½	−1½d	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Malacca Rubber £1	7/6	5/7½	−1/10½	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rubber Trust £1	9/6	9/6	...	Nil
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	United Sua Betong 2/-	1/3	1/-	−3d	Nil

Prices Year 1931. Highest	Lowest	Prices Year 1932 (Jan. 1 to Apr. 13) inclusive. Highest	Lowest	Name of Security.	Price Apr. 6, 1932.	Price Apr. 13, 1932.	Rise or Fall.	Present Yield. £ s. d.
				Oil.				
11/7½	5/1½	7/1	5/4½	Anglo-Ecuadorian £1	6/-	6/-	...	Nil
48/	20/-	28/9	20/-	Anglo-Egyptian B £1	24/3	22/6	−1/9	15 11 0
56/10½	26/10½	42/2½	29/4½	*Anglo-Persian* £1	35/7½	33/9	−1/10½	8 18 0
12/6	5/6	11/3	9/9	Apex (Trinidad) 5/-	10/6	10/-	−6d	10 0 0
20/-	9/6	14/6	8/3	Attock £1	12/6	11/3	−1/3	Nil
2/9	11½d	1/7½	1/1½	Brit.Cont.Oils(V.T.Cts)	1/1½	1/1½	...	Nil
72/6	30/9	46/10½	33/9	Burmah Oil £1	43/9	42/6	−1/3	10 11 0
9/3	4/7½	8/0¾	4/9	*Canadian Eagle, no par*	6/-	5/9	−3d	...
3/2½	1/1½	2/6¾	1/4½	Kern River Oil 10/-	1/6	1/6	...	Nil
30/-	12/6	27/2½	16/3	Lobitos Oilfields £1	23/9	23/9	...	8 8 6
10/9	5/6½	8/6	5/8½	*Mexican Eagle* (£1/0/6)	6/4½	6/3	−1½d	...
8/-	3/6	4/8½	3/6	Phoenix Oil £1	4/-	3/6	−6d	22 6 0
26¾	9⅞	20⅛	12⅞	*Royal Dutch* (£8⅓)	14	13½	−½	10 5 0
76/3	26/3	50/7½	33/1½	*Shell* £1	37/6	36/3	−1/3	9 10 0†
30/1½	10/-	28/5¾	21/9	*Trinidad Leaseholds* £1	24/3	23/9	−6d	4 5 0
35/11½	15/6	27/2½	16/3	V.O.C. Ord. £1	21/3	20/-	−1/3	17 10 0
				Miscellaneous.				
20/6	16/7½	21/3	18/-	Aerated Bread £1	20/7½	20/7½	...	4 17 0
33/3	15/-	16/9	15/-	Agar Cross £1	16/3	15/-	−1/3	Nil
17/9	7/3	14/-	7/3	*Allied Newspapers* £1	11/3	10/7½	−7½	Nil
3/9	2/3	3/8½	2/4½	Amal. Dental Def. 5/-	3/6	3/6	...	7 2 9
20/-	11/-	13/6	10/6	Amal. Press (10/-)	12/6	12/6	...	12 0 0
38/6	21/3	28/9	20/7½	Army & Navy 10/-	27/6	22/6	−5/-	10 0 0
20/9	9/9	18/-	9/4½	Assocd. Newspprs. Df. 5/-	16/3x	16/3x	...	12 5 0
27/6	18/6	27/-	24/4½	*Assoc. P. Cement* £1	26/-	26/-	...	5 16 0
65/-	52/6	67/3	53/1½	Barker (John) £1	65/-	66/3	+1/3	6 0 6
43/1½	23/1½	31/6	25/-	Barry & Staines Lino.	31/3	28/9	−2/6	5 4 3
14/3	7/-	11/6	7/6	Borax Deferred £1	10/-	8/9	−1/3	Nil
37/6	29/4½	33/3	24/-	*Bovril Deferred* £1	27/6	27/6	...	7 6 9
31/3	18/9	29/3	21/10½	British Aluminium £1	25/-x	25/-x	...	4 0 0
26/-	20/3	25/9	18/9	British Match £1	20/7½	22/6	+1/10½	5 6 9†
105/-	65/7½	82/6	73/9	*Brit.-Am. Tobacco* £1	77/6	75/-	−2/6	5 6 9†
24/6	9/6	11/6	8/9	Carlton Hotel £1	8/9	8/9	...	6 17 0
6	2¾	3½	2¾	*Carreras "A" Ord.* £1	3⅝	3½	−⅛	9 6 0
37/-	25/-	31/3	22/-	Chinese Eng'g £1	23/9	22/6	−1/3	2 5 0†
20/6	12/-	11/6	7/-	Crittall Manuftg. £1	8/9	7/6	−1/3	5 15 0
5/7½	1/6	2/1½	1/7½	*Debenhams Sec.* (5/-)	2/-	2/-	...	Nil
39/-	14/1½	15/2½	9/3	*Dunlop* £1	10/-	9/6	−6d	12 10 0
45/7½	17/1½	23/6	14/10½	*Elec. & Musical Ind.* £1	16/3	15/-	−1/3	Nil
23/6	17/-	25/4½	20/6	*Ever Ready Co.* 5/-	25/-	24/3	−9d	7 5 0
71/3	40/6	50/-	41/6	Finlay (James) & Co. £1	50/-	46/3	−3/9	6 9 9
6/3	2/3	3/9	2/9	Frederick Hotels 7/6	3/9	3/9	...	Nil
14/6	7/4½	10/4½	7/3	Gaumont-Brit. (10/-)	8/9	8/6	−3d	6 17 0
73/9	25/6	41/9	28/1½	Harrisons & Cros. Def.	31/3x	8/9x	−2/6	8 15 0
15/3	6/3	8/9	6/6	Harrods (B.A.) 15/- Ord	7/6	7/1½	−4½d	Nil
59/9	42/6	54/3	45/-	*Harrods* £1	52/6	52/6	...	6 13 0
15/6	11/3	15/6	12/9	Home&ColonialStores4/-	15/-x	14/9x	−3d	6 13 3
17/1½	11/3	16/-	13/-	*Imperial Airways* £1	15/9	15/9	...	3 17 0
21/3	8/7½	17/10½	13/9	*Imperial Chemical* { *Ord.* £1	16/-	15/6	−6d	5 17 6
7/-	2/6	5/3	3/11½	*Imperial Chemical* { *Def.* (10/-)	4/-	4/-	...	Nil
95/11½	72/6	82/2½	74/0¾	*Imperial Tobacco* £1	80/-	78/9	−1/3	5 14 0†
$3⅜	$11/16	$1⅜	$⅞	*International Holdings*	$1	$11/16	−$5/16	...
$20½	$9½	$13 3/16	$7 5/16	*Inter. Nickel of Can.*	$9	$8	−$1	...
22/-	18/10½	26/1½	20/9	International Tea 5/-	26/-	26/-	...	5 15 9
£27⅞	£5½	10½	[illegible]	*Kreuger & Toll* (kr. 100)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
24/3	20/-	23/9	20/6	Lever Bros. { 7% Cum. £1	23/-	23/-	...	6 0 0
23/7½	19/3	22/10½	20/-	Lever Bros. { 8% Cm. "A" Pf. £1	22/9	22/9	...	7 2 3
52/-	34/7½	46/6	40/3	Do. 20% Cm. Prf. Od. (£1)	46/3	46/3	...	8 13 0
41/-	30/6	40/-	29/-	London Brick £1	32/6	32/6	...	12 6 3
101/3	81/3	98/9	95/-	Lyons (J.) £1	97/6	97/6	...	4 12 6
34/3	24/1½	33/-	23/-	Manbre and Garton £1	31/-	31/-	...	8 17 6
95/7½	68/1½	106/3	89/4½	Marks and Spencer 10/-	105/-	105/-	...	2 17 0
4/8½	3/6	4/3	3/3¾	Maypole Dairy 2/-	4/-x	4/-x	...	7 10 0
6/6	1/6	4/3	2/5½	Millars Timber £1	2/6	2/6	...	Nil
8/1½	2/-	4/9	3/3	Platt Brothers £1	3/3	3/-	−3d	Nil
38/-	20/3	26/-	20/9	*Pinchin Johnson* 10/-	25/-x	23/9x	−1/3	6 6 3
106½	60	83½	61½	{ *Potash Syndicate of Germany.* } 7% *Gld.*	76½	75½	−1	9 5 0
102⅜	50	79½	57	{ *Potash Syndicate of Germany.* } 6½% *Bds.*	72½	70½	−2	9 1 0
78/-	73/1½	78/9	74/6	Reckitt & Sons Ord. £1	78/-	78/-	...	Nil
24/4½	10/7½	13/9	7/-	Roneo £1	8/6	7/6	−1/-	4 9 0
32/6	17/6	29/6	21/3	Salt Union £1	26/3x	26/3x	...	7 0 0
29/3	15/-	19/-	13/9	Savoy Hotel £1	17/-	13/9	−3/9	Nil
33/9	17/9	21/3	18/3	Schweppes Def. £1	18/9	18/9	...	7 9 0
21/9	16/1½	18/7½	17/7½	Sears (J.) Ord. 5/-	18/-	18/-	...	5 10 0†
27/-	21/6	24/4½	20/3	Slaters and Bodega £1	23/9	22/-	−1/9	9 0 0
33/9	22/3	38/4½	32/-	Spillers Ord. £1	38/3	37/6	−9d	8 0 0
13½	4½	[illegible]	[illegible]	*Swed. Match, B.* (kr. 100)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	...
41/4½	31/3	45/-	38/6¾	Tate and Lyle £1	41/3	38/9	−2/6	7 0 0
117/6	48/9	59/4½	43/6	Tilling, Thos., £1	53/9x	55/-x	+1/3	7 2 0
28/-	18/9	24/3	21/9	Tube Investments £1	23/9	23/9	...	6 14 9
41/3	21/9	32/2½	22/6	Turner & Newall £1	26/3	26/3	...	3 16 0
44/4½	20/7½	32/2½	24/8½	Unilever £1	26/3	26/3	...	7 12 6
37/6	28/-	38/10½	34/7½	United Dairies £1	38/6	38/6	...	5 12 0
16/3	5/1½	11/10½	6/9	*United Molasses* £1	7/1½	7/1½	...	Nil
15/3	6/3	12/6	6/6¾	Do. 6% Cum. Pref. £1	8/9	7/6	−1/3	Nil
82/6	70/-	74/9	70/-	Utd. Tob. (South) Ord £1	72/6x	71/3x	−1/3	6 5 0†
9/1½	2/6	4/9	3/6	Vocalion Gram. (10)	3/6	3/6	...	Nil
34/4½	19/6	29/1½	24/-	Wallpaper Mfrs. Def. £1	26/3	26/3	...	7 12 6
6/1½	1/10½	2/6	1/10½	Waring & Gillow Or. 10/-	2/3	2/3	...	Nil
11/4½	3/9	4/1½	2/3	Do. 6% Cum. Pref. £1	3/6	3/6	...	Nil
27/1½	19/6	28/6	24/3	Wiggins, Teape Ord. £1	26/3	26/3	...	7 12 6
50/3	34/3	58/9	47/6	*Woolworth (F.W.) Or* 5/-	53/9	54/-	+3d	6 10 0
				Mines.				
18/9	7/6	8/9	4/6	Anglo-Am. of S.A. 10/-	6/-	5/7½	−4½d	Nil
48/5½	24/6	41/9	23/1½	Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	25/-	27/-	+2/-	...
12/6	7/6	13/1½	11/6	Broken Hill Prop. 8/-	12/1½	12/1½	...	Nil
10/11½	5/2½	9/8¼	7/6	*Burma Corp.* (*Rs.* 10)	8/3	8/1½	−1½d	8 6 0
7/1½	2/10½	3/7½	2/3	*Bwana M'Kubwa*, 5/- *fp*	2/3	2/9	+6d	Nil
12½	5	11⅛	5½	Central Mining £8	£7½	£8	+½	Nil
32/6	11/3	29/0¾	13/9	Cons. Glds. of S. Af. £1	20/-	20/-	...	Nil
11/6	4/7½	6/6¾	4/7½	Cons. Mines Selection 10/	5/-	5/-	...	Nil
110/-	74/0½	[illegible]	[illegible]	Crown Mines 10/-	98/9	98/9	...	7 2 0
5⅛	2½	4½	2⅛	De Beers Def. £2½	2⅝	2½	−⅛	Nil
95/3¾	71/10½	93/4½	76/3	Geduld £1	77/6	77/6	...	7 15 0
7/10½	6/1½	6/6	6/1½	Idris Hyd. Tin 5/-	6/3	6/3	...	8 0 0
31/3	19/4½	25/9	19/6	Johan. Cons. £1	20/-	20/6	+6d	7 7 6
12/1½	7/7½	10/9	8/1½	Lake View and Star 4/-	10/-	9/7½	−4½d	Nil
2/9	9d	2/2½	1/1½	Loangwa 5/-	1/4½	1/4½	...	Nil
16/-	8/-	14/8½	7/6	*London Tin* 10/-	8/9	7/6	−1/3	Nil
20/6	14/3	16/9	14/-	Malayan Tin 5/-	14/6	14/6	...	14 16 0
14/-	9/1½	12/1½	9/9	Modder B 5/-	9/6	9/6	...	28 0 0
19/1½	11/3	18/6	15/3	Mount Lyell £1	16/3	15/6	−9d	6 10 0
7/6	3/10½	5/-	4/3	Pahang Consolid. 5/-	4/3	4/3	...	Nil
13/1½	6/3	7/6	6/-	Rhodes. Anglo-Am. 10/-	6/-	6/-	...	Nil
8	3	4	2⅜	*Rhokana Corp.* £1	2½	2⅝	+⅛	Nil
31	12	21½	11⅛	*Rio Tinto* £5	12	12½	+½	Nil
20/-	5/9	9/-	5/7½	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* 5/-	5/9	6/3	+6d	Nil
14/10½	6/10½	9/3	6/6	S. Francisco of Mex 10/-	7/6	6/6	−1/-	Nil
9/10½	4/9	7/6	5/6	Siamese Tin 5/-	5/6	5/6	...	11 10 0
79/4½	56/10½	74/4½	63/9	Springs Mines £1	66/3	66/3	...	11 10 0
36/6¾	15/-	23/-	16/3	*Tanganyika* £1	17/6	16/3	−1/3	Nil
15/9	9/9	14/-	12/3	Tronoh Mines 5/-	13/-	12/6	−6d	4 16 0
63/1½	41/3	58/1½	45/-	Union Corp. (12/6 fypd)	50/-	48/9	−1/3	5 2 0
25/9	11/3	24/3	20/-	Zinc Corporation 10/-	20/7½	20/-	−7½d	3 10 0

† Free of Income Tax.

NEW ISSUE PRICES.

Stock or Share.	Issue price.	Amt. paid.	Price, Apr. 6, 1932.	Price, Apr. 13, 1932.
Agricultural Mortgage Corporation 4½% Deb. Stock, 1961–91	95	5	...	par–½ pm
Brazil 5% 20 Yr. Funding "A"	...	...	67½–68½	64½–65½
Do. Funding "B"	...	...	44½–45½	39–40
Central Electricity Board 5% Debs.	95	50	6½–7 pm	6½–7½ pm
Croydon Corporation 5% Stock 1950–60	100	30	6–6½ pm	6–6½ pm
Darlington Rustless Steel and Iron Ord. £1	...	£1	21/6–22/6	21/6–22/6
Electrical Finance Co. 5½% Debs.	99	fy.pd.	101–104	102–105
Lever Bros. 5% Debs.	98	20	2½–3 pm	2½–2¾ pm
London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority 5% Stk. 1951–71	101½	21½	½–¾ pm	½–¾ pm
Lyons (J.) and Co. 7% Pref.	22/6	...	26/10½–27/1½	26/6–27/-
Metropolitan District Railway 5% Deb. 1985–95	97½	20	5¾–6½ pm	5¾–6½ pm
Metropolitan Electric Supply New Ord. £1	...	...	39/6–40/6	39/6–40/6
Metropolitan Railway 5% Deb. 1957–62	97½	25	2½–3 pm	2½–3 pm
New Zealand 5% Ins. Stk. 1955–75	98½	5	½–¼ dis	½–¼ dis
Nyasaland 4½% Gtd. 1952–72	97½	72½	3¾–4½ pm	4½–4¾ pm
Poole Corporation 5% Stock 1952–72	100½	fy. pd.	105½–105¾	105½–106½
Port of Calcutta 5½% Bearer Debs.	93½	...	96–97	95½–96½
Port of London 5% Stk. 1950–70	101½	16½	2¾–2¾ pm	2½–1¾ pm
Shropshire, Worcestershire, etc., Elec. Power 5% Deb. 1952–82	94	10	6½–7 pm	6½–7 pm

(*Continued from page* 859.)

Business showed a slight expansion in the mining share market after a quiet start. Demand for gold mining shares came from London rather than Paris or Johannesburg. The reports of the Anglo-American group of companies (dealt with on page 867) were generally satisfactory, the announcement of an increase of capital having no depressing effect on Brakpan. Though actual recoveries in metal prices were too small perceptibly to change share quotations, both tin and copper shares had a firmer tone. The London Tin report was no worse than had been expected, and the shares remained firm on bear closing. The position regarding tin "control" is discussed on page 866.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 8, 1932.	Apr. 9, 1932.	Apr. 11, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 13, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,520	1,548	671	1,498	1,634	1,474	1,527
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	911	891	356	984	848	876	893
Commercial and Industrial*	1,717	1,685	644	1,891	1,531	1,703	1,681
Banks, Insurance and Financial	517	450	178	542	498	518	476
Mines (including Nitrate)	361	333	118	422	375	385	431
Oil	128	105	31	137	115	105	81
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	145	134	25	128	112	128	107
Total	5,299	5,146	2,023	5,602	5,113	5,189	5,196

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS.

(1928 = 100.)

Highest of 1932 (Mar. 3.)	Lowest of 1932 (Feb. 11)	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 8, 1932.	Apr. 9, 1932.	Apr. 11, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 13, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
[illegible]	[illegible]	60·2	59·9	60·0	60·2	60·2	60·0	59·8

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Uncertainty remained the main constituent in market psychology. The Senate inquiry into short selling was unexpectedly suspended after Mr Richard Whitney, the president of the New York Stock Exchange, had given evidence. Accordingly, the covering movement in the market, which had been particularly in evidence over the week-end, was not continued, prices again turning downwards. The worst showing was made by stocks like Standard Oil of New Jersey, in respect of which the banks were reported to be forcing heavy selling from collateral loans. Railroad shares remained weak, Atchison declining further, while Union Pacific were sold on bad figures for the winter wheat crop. Utility issues showed somewhat greater resistance, despite further rumours and counter-rumours regarding the "Insull" companies, plans for the readjustment of which were later understood to be making progress. The announcement was expected, before week-end, of the names of members of an association, under official auspices, to protect foreign bondholders, in view of the growing list of defaults, actual and prospective. A conference of Federal Reserve Governors at Washington was reported to have agreed on more vigorous "open market" operations, involving the buying of $75 millions in place of $25 millions of Government bonds each week. Steel production was put at 21 per cent. of capacity, against 22 per cent. The Bethlehem Steel chairman, at the annual meeting, stated the company's intention to pay the usual preferred dividends. General trade showed no change for the better. Car loadings for the week ended April 2nd were 544,982, against 561,189 for the preceding week, 728,511 for the corresponding week last year, and an average of 922,039 for the same week over the seven years 1924-30.

	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
U.S. 3⅜% T. Bds.	97 1/32	97 11/32	101 1/32
Lb. Ln. 3½% '32-47	100	100 6/32	101
Do. 4⅛% '32-47	100 1/32	100 1/32	101 11/32
Do. 4¼% '33-38	100 21/32	101¼	102⅛
Atchison	63½	53½	44½
Ches. & Ohio	18⅞	15⅞	15
Erie	6⅜	4⅜	4⅛
Illinois Central	12	10⅜	10⅞
N.Y. Central	25⅝	22	20⅛
Pennsylvania	15⅞	13⅞	13
Southern Pacific	18⅞	15⅛	13
Southern Rly.	7	5⅜	5⅛
Union Pacific	68½	60⅞	52⅞
Am. Can.	61⅛	53⅛	51⅛
Amer. Smelting	10⅜	8	8⅛
Anaconda	6⅛	5	5⅞
Bethlehem Steel	17	14⅛	13⅛
Chrysler Motor	10⅞	9⅞	9
Corn Produce Rf.	40⅞	35⅛	30⅞
Eastman Kodak	72⅞	65⅛	61⅞
Gen. Electric (New)	17⅛	15⅞	15⅞
Gen. Motors	15⅞	13⅛	11⅛
Int. Harvester	20⅛	17⅛	19⅞
Mont. Ward	7⅞	7⅛	7½

	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
Natl. Biscuit	37⅞	32	31⅞
Phelps Dodge	5⅞	4⅞	4⅞
Pullman	17⅞	16	15⅞
Sears-Roebuck	28⅞	23⅞	21⅞
Studebaker	7⅞	6⅞	6⅞
Un. Fruit	22⅛	20⅞	19⅞
U.S. Leather	2	1⅞	1⅞
U.S. Rubber	4	3⅞	3⅞
U.S. Steel	39	35⅞	34⅞
Westinghouse	23⅛	23⅞	22⅞
Woolworth	40⅞	37⅞	31⅞
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	110⅞	108⅛	107⅞
Interboro R.T.	8⅞	6⅞	7⅞
Int. Tel. Teleg.	6⅞	5⅞	5⅞
Radio Corpn.	6	5⅞	5⅞
Utilities P. & L.	3⅛	3	2⅞
W. Union Tlg.	35	31⅞	31⅞
Associated Gas "A"	2⅛	2	6⅛
Pan. Amer. B.	16x	15⅞	22
Shell	12	12	13
Shell Union	3⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Std. California	24⅛	22⅞	18⅞
Do. N.J.	28⅞	26⅞	23⅞

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York, and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926 = 100):—

	1930.		1931.		1932.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	April 6.	April 13.
337 Industrials	98·2	174·1	51·4	114·7	52·2	44·3	40·4
33 Rails	89·1	145·6	31·7	105·7	32·2	23·4	20·5
34 Utilities	153·2	267·4	90·6	187·6	91·8	74·6	42·3
Total, 404 stocks	105·5	184·2	54·7	124·6	55·5	46·0	42·5
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	4·15%	5·95%	9·37%	5·11%	9·29%	8·96%	9·80%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 AMERICAN COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1932 (Mar. 8).	Lowest of 1932 (Apr. 13)	April 6, 1932.	April 7, 1932.	April 8, 1932.	April 10, 1932.	April 11, 1932.	April 12, 1932.	April 13, 1932.
68·9	46·1	50·9	50·5	48·1	49·0	47·1	46·9	46·1

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	April 8, 1932.	April 9, 1932.*	April 11, 1932.	April 12, 1932.	April 13, 1932.	April 14, 1932.
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	2,100	1,100	1,700	1,600	1,100	1,700
Bonds (Value Thous. $)	16,400	6,627	10,776	12,197	14,276	15,158
Curb— Shares (Thous.)	450	220	270	300	240	270

* 2-hour session.

PARIS.

Although conditions throughout the week remained unsettled, bear covering for the mid-monthly account checked the crumbling tendency of prices. Rentes were dull. Kreuger issues continued on offer. Later quotations were favourably affected by the rise in wheat, and Bank of France led a general improvement, though the volume of business remained small. On Thursday the better tone was maintained, with further buying of bank shares and Suez Canal.

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
Banque de France	12,935	12,970	13,160
Crédit Lyonnais	1,990	2,015	2,025
Suez Canal	14,205	14,200	14,350
Chargeurs Réunis	205	213	222
Rio Tinto	1,170	1,236	1,307
Royal Dutch	12,400	12,550	12,700

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
Wagons Lits	101	105	[illegible]
Mexican Eagle	33	33	33
"Chartered"	83	85	85
Ford	117	114	119
De Beers	253	249	259
"Johnnies"	94	94	95

BERLIN.

The Bourse was quiet and dull on the "official" re-opening, quotations being adversely affected by the increase in Herr Hitler's presidential vote. Electrical, chemical and mining share quotations were all marked lower. Reichsbank was also adversely affected. A.K.U. resisted selling pressure, but Bemberg gave ground. The tone improved in mid-week, hopes being expressed of a further cut in the Reichsbank discount rate in view of continued easy money conditions.

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
Reichsbank	100½	98	106
Bemberg	45	45	44
Bamag	20½	22	23½
Reichsbahn			
Lloyd	12	12	14½

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
A. E. G.	23½	24	26½
Siemens & Halske	98	98	101
German Petroleum	50	47½	...
A. K. U.	28	31	37
Svenska Tandsticks	13	11	8½

AMSTERDAM.

The market was overshadowed by news of the suspension of payments by Scheurleer en Zohnen, an important private bank. Irregular conditions, later, however, made way for a more cheerful tone, as a result of firmer commodity prices. Philips Lamps recovered 9 points. Unilever 3 and Royal Dutch 6. Amsterdam Trading and Amsterdam Rubber showed similar improvement.

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
5% German	33½	33½	32½
Unilever N.V.	96½	100	103½
Philips' Lamps	56	54	63
Netherlands Ship Union	47	48½	49
Java Cultuur	110	108	111

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
Steel Common	35½	35½	34½
A. K. U.	21½	27½	29
Ford Motor	86½	88	97
Deli Batavia	101	99	95
Royal Dutch	121	121	123

OTHER CENTRES.

The absence of any definite tendency in the main centres was reflected in irregular conditions on most of the minor European bourses. Milan opened briskly, but fell away in mid-week. Brussels recovered slightly after a weak opening. Quotations were dull in Frankfort despite the resumption of "official" quotations on Tuesday. Stockholm remained dull and inactive.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Further Kreuger Developments.—The further disclosures of the Kreuger *débâcle*, which were made at the annual meeting of the Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget, are discussed elsewhere in this issue. Meanwhile, a receivership has been requested for the International Match Corporation by a holder of stocks and bonds on the charge that the Corporation has incurred a loss of $250 millions, and the Irving Trust Company has been appointed receiver in equity. There is a possibility that an action may be brought against Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget with a view to the recovery of $50 millions of German Government bonds belonging to the International Match Corporation, which were pledged to the bank as a collateral for loans. It is significant that the Skandinaviska Bank has declared that it holds among its collateral in Kreuger loans a block of shares of the British Match Company. This suggests that the Swedish Match Company is heavily involved in the foreign commitments which Mr Kreuger made, for the British Match Company shares were held in the portfolio of Swedish Match. It is expected that there may be many legal disputes regarding the ownership of the securities deposited with the various banks as collateral for Kreuger loans. A sensational story has been circulated to the effect that the Swedish and International Telephone deal was cancelled some time ago on the discovery by New York bankers that the Swedish accounts had misrepresented the true position. The International Telephone has issued a statement to the effect that it has not yet parted with any of its shares in Swedish Telephone. The market is anxiously awaiting the official report of the Investigating Committee in Stockholm so that the circulation of these highly complicated and alarming reports may be stopped. Meanwhile, the protective committees formed in London and New York are busy obtaining from stockholders the deposit of their securities. The secretary of the London Committee has obtained an official statement from the Stockholm body that, under Swedish law, ownership of shares in Kreuger and Toll and Swedish Match does not involve shareholders in liability for the debts of those companies.

Scottish Investment Trust Results.—The latest batch of investment trust company reports comes from Scotland, and the same marked distinction is noticeable as in the case of the English companies between the results of the pre-war and those of the post-war companies. So heavy is the depreciation in the investments of the post-war companies that after allowing for the repayment of debentures and prior capital the break-up value of the ordinary stocks is a minus quantity. Yet all these ordinary stocks are earning dividends and are fairly valued as dividend-earners in the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets. The following table gives the book and market values respectively of the investment portfolios, the percentage depreciation, the percentage of ordinary capital covered by the assets at break-up value, and the market valuation of the ordinary stocks of seven Scottish companies (whose accounts were closed for the most part on January 3rd last):—

INVESTMENTS.

	Date Formation.	Book Value.	Market Value.	Depreciation.	Per cent. of Ord. Capital covered by Assets.*	Market Price Ord. Stk.
Pre-War Companies.		£'000.	£'000.	%	%	
Alliance Trust	1888	10,917	9,733	10·8	220·6	505
Caledonian Trust	1910	2,362	2,069	22·4	76·6	240
Edinburgh Investment	1889	1,962	1,503	23·4	78·6	180
Scottish Western	1907	2,745	Not stated	Unknown surplus	410·0	315
Post-War Companies.						
Second Caledonian	1927	1,072	682	36·4	Nil	125
Scottish Eastern	1924	1,361	920	32·4	Nil	71½
Third Scottish Western	1926	1,546	989	36·0	Nil	130

* Investments shown at break-up value without taking into account surplus of current assets over current liabilities.

The depreciation shown in the portfolios of these post-war Scottish companies is greater in extent than that of the London post-war companies whose reports we last examined, but we venture no comment on this fact. The next table shows that the earnings available for the ordinary stocks have declined substantially in all cases, alhough in all but two cases there is a fair margin between earnings and dividends paid:—

	Ordinary Capital. Earned. 1930.	Earned. 1931.	Paid. 1930.	Paid. 1931.	Div. Yield %
Pre-War Companies.	%	%	%	%	£ s. d.
Alliance Trust	37·5	34·0	25·0	25·0	4 19 3
Caledonian Trust	20·0	17·2	16·0	15·0	6 5 0
Edinburgh Investment	14·6*	9·1*	12·0*	9·0*	5 0 0
Scottish Western	27·1	23·6	19·0	19·0	6 0 8
Post-War Companies.					
Second Caledonian	12·9	7·0	6·5	6·0	4 16 0
Scottish Eastern	9·0*	6·3*	7·5*	5·0*	6 19 6
Third Scottish Western	8·3	7·2	6·0	7·0	5 7 9

* On deferred stock.

The most interesting report, that of the Alliance Trust, Dundee, which is one of the largest in Great Britain, refers to the difficulty experienced in collecting income from mortgages in America. In view, however, of its conservative financial policy in the past, the company has no difficulty in maintaining its dividends at the old rate. The chairman of the Scottish Western is also hopeful that dividends will be maintained this year.

Unilever Accounts.—A year's Unilever accounts are a symphony of which the investor hears only the concluding bars. From Greenland's icy mountains to Afric's sunny fountains its subsidiaries, sub-subsidiaries and sub-sub-subsidiaries extend, and all that shareholders can

conclude from the published reports is that trading profits have been satisfactorily maintained, but losses have been suffered on raw material holdings, particularly on whale oil:—

	Unilever, Ltd.		Unilever, N.V.	
	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	Fl.	Fl.
Profit	1,798,856	1,733,805	30,064,333	30,023,717
Dividend tax	...	...	780,000	400,000
Special reserve	Nil	350,000	Nil	13,500,000
Net profit	1,798,856	1,383,805	29,284,333	16,123,717
Preference dividend	155,053	186,313	2,381,470	2,381,470
Available for ordinary	1,643,803	1,197,492	26,902,863	13,742,247
Ordinary dividend	1,031,875	1,031,875	17,026,350	13,621,080
Rate %	10%	10%*	10%	8%†
Deferred dividend	6,000	Nil	...	...
General reserve	600,000	Nil	10,800,000	Nil
Brought in	37,269	43,197	1,884,000	960,514
Carried forward	43,197	108,814	960,514	1,081,681

* Sterling. † Gold.

The group's stocks have been made over to two new "raw material companies." Stocks whose market value has depreciated since their purchase have been taken from the raw materials companies at cost price when consumed. It is felt, however, that "circumstances are now such as to make it prudent" to create reserves against depreciation in whale oil stocks. Hence the setting aside of £350,000 by Unilever, Limited, and Fl. 13½ millions by Unilever N.V. As regards other materials, the problem has solved itself, since early this year a point was reached where their book value was lower than their replacement value. The formation of the new raw materials subsidiaries vitiates comparisons between the values of stocks carried, but the summary of the main subsidiaries given with the Unilever report shows that a marked fall has taken place in every instance. Lever Brothers, which showed an advance of 3 per cent. in net profits at £5,903,498, carried stocks valued at £719,224 at the end of last year, against £1,421,867 twelve months earlier. Jurgens, Limited, whose declared net profits of £206,271 showed a decline of 21 per cent., carried stocks totalling £107,472, against £265,639. Van den Berghs, Limited, whose net profits at £463,126 were practically unchanged, appears to have made over an even larger proportion of its stocks to the raw material company, the balance-sheet figure being only £67,539, against £621,390. Of the main Dutch subsidiaries, N.V. Anton Jurgens' profits showed a decline of 4 per cent. at Fl. 14,228,455; N.V. Van den Berghs' earnings were only 1 per cent. down at Fl. 6,019,893, and N.V. Hollandsche Vereeniging tot Exploitatie Van Margarine declared profits of Fl. 3,639,281—approximately 18 per cent. below the 1930 figure. The group investments of these main subsidiaries show very little change. Their current finances, so far as the accounts show, are rather more liquid than a year ago, the total cash items of the three British subsidiaries being £1,795,417, against £1,581,665, and of the three Dutch concerns Fl. 6,238,635, against Fl. 4,701,844. Cash held by Unilever, Limited, has increased from £259,736 to £1,227,571, and by Unilever, N.V., from Fl. 5,441,883 to Fl. 15,927,066. On the whole, the accounts suggest a creditable maintenance of the group's trading and financial position in a period of difficult external conditions.

Hudson's Bay Company.—The accounts to January 31st last show a loss on trading of £465,906, against £761,744 in the previous year. Their main interest, however, is their testimony to the energy with which the present board have prosecuted their task of reorganisation. Following an extended visit of the Governor to North America last autumn, a strong Canadian committee has been entrusted with powers of general administrative operation on the spot. The London board retains control of policy and finance, but has divested itself of the impossible task of endeavouring to hold all the threads in its hands. The financial position has been further cleaned up. Nine months ago some £476,921 was provided against the value of interests in subsidiary and associated companies, and £296,960 allocated to buildings depreciation account to lighten the amortisation charge in future years. This year a further £199,588 is allocated to the latter account, £69,325 is written off shares in subsidiaries and associates, and £62,373 off store buildings. A total debit of £778,303 is eliminated by a transfer from share premiums account, which now stands at £2,313,715, against £4,476,672. The origin of this account was the issue of some £1,492,224 of £1 shares at premiums of 50s. to 70s. at various dates between 1926 and 1929. Subscribers to these issues have thus played an opportune, if involuntary, part. Without the working capital they provided, it is difficult to see how the company could have weathered the storm without extensive capital reorganisation and onerous outside borrowing. During last year alone net current assets were reduced from £1,526,232 to £893,799. From now on, the company will increasingly reap the fruits of internal reform, but profits and dividends are contingent on a change in Canadian economic conditions. A short wheat crop is now being marketed at low prices. Fur prices have declined further, vindicating the company's previous determination not to accumulate large unsold stocks. Store operations are being limited, and no adequate profit is to be expected for some time on a capital expenditure which, in some cases, was excessive. The land department remains depressed, and oppressed by uneconomic incidence of taxation. Cash receipts for land sales were £45,437 last year (against £97,770 in 1930-31), but taxation was as much as £124,149. The directors' detailed *exposé* should confirm the confidence of proprietors in their new broom.

Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.—The latest offer by this corporation is dealt with in our "Capital Issues" column. The corporation was registered in November, 1928, under influential auspieces, to make loans on first mortgages or agricultural or farming lands. During the year ended March 31st last interest received totalled £504,669, against £436,018. Some £429,510 was paid in debenture interest, etc., against £396,838. The dividend on the 650,000 £1 shares, which are held by the Bank of England and other banks, is again 2½ per cent.:—

Year to March 31.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£*	£	£
Interest received	188,964	436,018	504,669
Other income	76,266	19,308	12,845
Expenses	26,687	24,105	26,743
Other charges	23,923	7,280	10,000‖
Debenture interest, &c.	195,301	396,838	429,510
Earned for dividend	19,319	27,103	51,261
Brought forward	...	2,401	5,164
Dividend:—			
Amount (after tax)	Nil	12,594	12,594
Earned %	*2·2*†	*4·2*	*7·1*
Paid %	Nil	2½	2½
Preliminary expenses written off	6,918	Nil	...
Reserve	10,000	15,000	2,664§
Contingency reserve	Nil	5,000	36,000
Carried forward	2,401	5,164‡	5,168

* Period November 12, 1928, to March 31, 1930.
† Rate per annum.
‡ After crediting £8,254 excess provided for income tax.
§ Special reserve.
‖ Written off issue expenses.

Mortgage loans completed up to March 31, 1932, totalled £8,817,469, the security consisting of mortgages of 595,088 acres of agricultural land with the necessary farmhouses and buildings, valued at £13,978,680. Additional loans of £653,275 have been approved by the directors, subject to completion of the necessary formalities. Reductions totalling £176,843 were made in the principal amount of loans during the year, of which £53,832 was in respect of capital repayments as provided in the mortgage deeds and £123,511 was accepted in special reductions and repayments approved by the directors.

Allied Newspapers.—The results of the "Berry" group of companies show a decline in gross profits for 1931 of a little over 9 per cent.—from £687,221 to £624,095, which is considerably less than might have been expected in view of the effects of economic depression on advertising and other "staple" newspaper revenues. Net profit is £410,910, against £495,220, and is equal to over 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The directors, however, are conserving cash resources and have passed the dividend:—

Year	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Profit	654,367	687,221	624,095
Income tax	...	150,000	175,000
Directors' fees	3,989	5,489	3,561
Debenture interest	39,172	36,512	34,624
Net profit	611,206	495,220	410,910
Brought forward	138,655	177,861	215,081
Preference dividend	304,000	299,250	289,750
No. of times covered	*2·0*	*1·7*	*1·4*
Ordinary dividend:—			
Amount	158,000	38,750	Nil
Earned %	*19·4*	*12·6*	*8·1*
Paid %	10	2½	Nil
General reserve	110,000	120,000	100,000
Carry forward	177,861	215,081	236,241

A further allocation of £100,000 brings reserve to £800,000. Losses have been sustained in centres where competition "has been of an abnormal character," but the trading of the subsidiaries owned by Allied Northern Newspapers "has been on the whole of a satisfactory character." "Abnormal" competition—*i.e.*, the provincial newspaper "war"—has now ended. Every trading subsidiary of Allied Northern Newspapers is now earning profits, and the holding company this year will show a surplus. The directors, therefore, consider the moment opportune for funding the loans of the Northern Company, incurred in connection with its newspaper acquisitions. Allied Newspapers 8 per cent. cumulative preference shareholders are therefore to be asked to agree to the creation and issue of £2,000,000 6½ per cent. cumulative preference shares, ranking in front of their own. In other words, they are asked to relinquish their prior rights over the first £130,000 of the Allied Company's future annual profits. The *quid pro quo* offered them is relief from the risk that the company may be called upon to discharge some of the Allied Northern loans, which it has guaranteed, and may find it necessary to retain profits for the purpose. Detailed evidence should be furnished at the meeting as to the Northern company's ability to earn future profits commensurate with the requirements of the new shares.

Imperial Chemical Meeting.—At Thursday's Imperial Chemical Industries meeting, Sir Harry McGowan, for the most part, confined his lengthy discussion of the company's development and prospects to somewhat general terms. The policy of concentration of manufacture had, he declared, resulted in the closing down of certain plants. After the adjustments mentioned in the report (see the *Economist* of April 2nd last, page 747) the total reserves for central obsolescence and depreciation covered over 16 per cent. of the book value of land, buildings, plant and machinery, and 27 per cent. of the plant and machinery alone. Marketable and other investments (standing at £9,540,877) mainly represented investments in large industrial companies with which Imperial Chemical had trade connections, including General Motors, Du Pont, Allied Chemical, International Nickel, I. G. Farbenindustrien, and Joseph Lucas in this country. Discussing the benefits of rationalisation, Sir Harry referred to international agreements, concluded or attempted, as regards dyes, nitrogen, and coal oil. If the results of the last three months were maintained, trading in 1932 would be somewhat better than in 1931.

Ford Meeting.—The cautionary note sounded in our leading article last week was emphasised by Sir Percival Perry at the annual meeting on April 8th. Sir Percival declared that sales of Fordson tractors had fallen by 60 per cent. throughout the world, though in Britain sales had increased in 1931 by 20 per cent. The Ford Motor Company during 1931 sold more than one-third of the new commercial vehicles registered in Great Britain and Ireland and 41.6 per cent. of the "light delivery" vehicles, with a carrying capacity under two tons. The new 8-h.p. car had had a good reception. The associated companies in Europe had been adversely affected by the "economic blizzard." Ford S.A.F. Asnières would show profits exceeding 12½ per cent., but substantial losses had been incurred by the Cologne concern. In most other countries profits, though reduced, were substantial. The policy of conserving these profits had emanated from Mr Henry Ford himself. Sir Percival's comments on the immediate prospects in view of international depression, tariffs and exchange difficulties, were naturally restrained, but the Ford organisation appears to be well equipped to take advantage of better times, whenever they arrive.

Whitbread.—The accounts of Whitbread suggest that the company has had a most successful year. The dividend is maintained at 14 per cent.

Year ended December 31.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Net profit	314,585	303,133	302,483
Brought forward	243,437	213,964	72,799*
Preference dividend	43,407	43,407	43,407
No. of times covered	*7·2*	*6·9*	*6·9*
Ordinary dividend:—			
Amount	153,660	143,416	143,416
Paid %	15%	14%	14%
To reserve	146,991†	100,000	100,000
Amount transferred to Superan. Fund	...	...	157,475
Carried forward	213,964	230,274	88,459

* After transferring £157,475 to Superannuation Fund. † Also £91,500 to Property Reserve from net profit on sale of properties in 1928 and 1929.

The superannuation fund, in operation since 1925, has been extended to include all members of the staff. The company has guaranteed the payment of a capital sum of £275,475 by fifteen equal annual instalments, which, as fas as possible, will be met by the issue of an equivalent amount of "C" debenture stock created for the purpose. The cash position of the company is satisfactory, liquid assets being well in excess of current liabilities. No losses have been sustained by any of the subsidiary companies.

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London County Freehold. — Clarity in company accounts is a virtue which investors are not prone to underestimate. The accounts of the London County Freehold and Leasehold Properties, Limited, might well serve as a model to many other concerns by reason of their logical arrangement, wealth of detail and celerity of presentation. For example, loans and mortgages are duly shown on the "liabilities" side of the balance sheet, but are not taken into the total, being deducted, instead, from the value of properties on the "assets" side, so that the shareholder may see at a glance the net value of the company's "equities in properties." The company's income has been well maintained, a slight reduction in the rent roll (which totalled £835,091), being largely offset by increased rentals on reletting and income from additional purchases. The net income for the year, at £217,218, represents over 13 per cent. on the total share capital, and a dividend of 11 per cent., less tax, is paid. The assets of the company (including subsidiaries) aggregate £5,611,096, and the liabilities, £3,083,658. At 28s. 9d. the £1 ordinary shares yield £7 13s. per cent.

Greyhound Racing Companies.—Although the shares of greyhound racing companies have remained outside the orbit of many conservative investors since the melancholy collapse of numerous "boom" flotations, the survivors of that grim period have now succeeded in establishing their business, on the whole, on a stable profit-earning basis. The results of five such companies, for the last three years, are shown in the table below. Their aggregate profits increased by nearly 14 per cent. in 1930 and by over 24 per cent. in 1931. In 1929 only one company paid an ordinary dividend, but all made distributions in respect of last year:—

Name of Company	1929		1930		1931	
	Net Profit.	Ord. Div.	Net Profit.	Ord. Div.	Net Profit.	Ord. Div.
	£		£		£	
Clapton Stadium	57,736	30	47,398	40	61,035	47½
Scottish Greyhound Racing	*Dr. 651*	Nil	5,309*	Nil	25,191	100†
Wembley Stadium	31,526	Nil	37,381	17½†	28,566	17½†
West Ham Stadium	15,343	Nil	14,611	10†	24,128	25†
Greyhound Racing Association Trust	87,519	10	113,128	10	131,867	10

* October 1, 1929, to December 31, 1930. † Deferred.

The companies' reports suggest that while severe competition obtains in certain centres, greyhound racing (in association, frequently, with motor-cycle racing) is maintaining, and even slightly increasing, a regular clientele. The increase in earnings of the Greyhound Racing Association Trust, which controls the operation of tracks in a number of urban centres, are a fair measure of the "industry's" progress.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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New Issues in March.—In the following table we show the new capital raised in London by issue to the public or to shareholders, in March, and in recent years:—

(000's omitted).

Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1924	7,051	6,023	4,370	17,444
1925	12,918	5,077	1,356	19,351
1926	10,765	4,431	4,036	19,232
1927	17,240	8,318	4,039	29,597
1928	21,965	5,263	3,526	30,754
1929	16,502	5,081	2,186	23,769
1930	14,220	5,121	2,975	22,316
1931	4,542	3,209	761	8,512
Monthly Total.	**Govt.**	**Other.**		
October, 1930	850	11,839	12,000	1,480	26,961
October, 1931	*Dr. 1,350*	684	49	Nil	*Dr. 617*
November, 1930	1,050	6,479	6,158	2,893	16,580
November, 1931	*Dr. 450*	2,468	Nil	10	2,028
December, 1930	850	26,914	3,361	338	31,463
December, 1931	Nil	2,503	15	Nil	2,518
January, 1931	1,800	6,331	118	Nil	8,249
January, 1932	*Dr. 1,200*	123	2,127	Nil	1,050
February, 1931	2,450	4,368	13,705	50	20,573
February, 1932	*Dr. 600*	7,660	2,470	Nil	9,530
March, 1931	1,750	10,341	1,513	5,490	19,094
March, 1932	*Dr. 3,250*	9,508	380	Nil	6,638

Net encashments of National Savings Certificates in March totalled £3,250,000, the highest figure for some time. Renewed activity was displayed in the market for high-grade issues. The Port of London Authority offered £2,000,000 of 5 per cent. inscribed stock at 101½ and the London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority £1,500,000 of stock on approximately the same terms. Poole Corporation issued £750,000 5 per cent. stock at 100½, of which some £341,000 was for conversion. Two successful offers were made by London railway companies, one by the Mteropolitan District of £1,500,000 5 per cent. at 97½ and one by the Metropolitan of £2,000,000 on the same terms for a shorter period. Lever Bros. were responsible for a conversion issue of £3,440,000, and the Port of Calcutta offered £1,075,000 5½ per cent. debentures by way of a Stock Exchange introduction.

MINING NOTES.

Tin Developments.—In an investment note in the *Economist* of April 2nd, we referred to the report that at the next meeting of the International Tin Committee, to be held in London, on April 22nd, a further cut in production of 8,420 tons a year, corresponding with one month's production, would be considered in order to keep pace with the falling-off in world consumption. This further cut would bring world production down to about 101,000 tons. It is understood that unofficial meetings have been taking place between certain members of the Tin Committee and the Tin Pool in London with a view to the formation of a large marketing combine which might have important consequences for the London Metal Exchange. Whether some organisation in the manner of Copper Exporters Inc. is to be created for the tin industry—to finance tin at the producing points, that is, before it enters the smelters—is a matter of guesswork. As the total visible supply is now about 60,000 tons (including carry-over in the Straits Settlements), the organisation of any such finance export corporation would be a formidable undertaking. Short of some marketing organisation, the members of the Tin Pool, it is thought, might decide to increase their holdings above 21,000 tons, now that the price has slumped further to £103 15s. per ton. No doubt the Tin Pool may feel that with an uncertain currency policy it is unwise to add to their commitments, for with every rise in the gold value of the £, the sterling price of tin will fall. Actually the price has now fallen below its gold parity largely through liquidation by Paris speculators who had "bulled" tin on the supposition that inflation in Great

Britain was a certainty. It may be added that the tin held by the British-American Tin Corporation has now been taken over by Tin Holdings, Limited, while the other assets of the corporation have been acquired by the British Tin Investment Corporation. The fact that the directors of the British Tin Investment Corporation include Mr O. G. V. Hoare, of New Consolidated Gold Fields, Mr O. Lyttelton, of the British Metal Corporation, Mr J. H. C. E. Howeson, of the London Tin Corporation, and Mr. C. V. Stephens, of Southern Malayan Tin Dredging, suggest that the powerful interests on the Metal Exchange are working in harmony with the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation and that the latter has made peace with its rivals.

Union Corporation.—Our mining correspondent writes: Having regard to the conditions which prevailed during the period, the accounts for 1931 make a fairly good showing. Indeed, the operating profit, at £286,800, exceeds the previous year's total by £12,000; but by reason of the provision of £30,000 for income tax—a charge which did not appear in the 1930 statement—the net profit comes out at £229,100, in place of £248,900. Of the former amount, £100,000 is placed to reserve, and after the payment of 2s. 6d. per share, the somewhat enhanced balance of £114,000 remains to go forward. In respect of 1930, the dividends totalled 3s. 3d. per share, of which 1s. 3d. was disbursed as interim. On the present occasion a noteworthy departure is made in the declaration of the dividend in sterling. Holders in South Africa will receive the equivalent in Union currency at the rate of exchange ruling on the day the dividend is payable. The transfer to reserve just mentioned has been made partly as provision against exchange differences, which may arise by reason of the application without adjustment of the London sterling price of securities with respect to Union of South Africa currency, in cases which it is below cost and where the London price is the only one available. The holdings in question, it is stated, represent in market value less than one-fifth of the total. As a whole the investments at current market prices "show a very substantial surplus over the amount at which they stand in the balance sheet." The principal items are contrasted below:—

	1930.	1931.
	£	£
Shares, debentures, &c.	2,057,150	1,822,800
Temporary advances (secured)	291,140	411,950
Government, &c., securities ...	243,600	184,800
Cash	1,435,040	1,133,180

Contingent liabilities in the shape of uncalled capital, etc., are somewhat less than twelve months ago at £467,800. Last year the corporation's large interest in the San Francisco Mines was unproductive, and owing to the continuance of low metal prices, work was suspended at the end of December. The diminishing returns from the Modder Deep are by way of being replaced from the holding in the East Geduld, which "should enter the dividend-paying stage this year." Following the acquisition of an important interest in Grootvlei, the Union Corporation has taken preliminary measures to test the farm Vlakfontein No. 21, which lies south-east of the Daggafontein. The Corporation's industrial interests have naturally felt the effects of the prevailing depression. In their report the directors devote attention to the production and distribution of gold during recent years, arguing that the restoration of international trade is only possible by the re-establishment of a stable international monetary system.

Anglo-American Group Results.—Two of the Witwatersrand subsidiaries of this important group last year established records in several respects. With the Springs Mines the expansion in earnings was translated into dividends, the total being 7s. 9d. per share, as against 7s. 6d. for 1930, 5s. 3d. for 1929, and 6s. 9d. for 1928. The crushing of an increased tonnage was accompanied by improvement in working revenue and reduction in expenses, giving an operating surplus of £331,900, or 19s. 9d. per ton, compared with £261,700, or 18s. 11d. per ton previously. To what extent the saving in the cost ratio is attributable to the treatment of development ore from the Daggafontein, which has been opened up from the Springs Company's workings. The Union Government's share of the profits amounted to £154,500, or 18.4 per cent. of the total. A moderate expansion in the ore reserve tonnage has been accompanied by a small decline in value. For the current year results at least as good as those of 1931 are anticipated by the consulting engineers. With the Brakpan the treatment of a substantially larger tonnage at a slightly reduced cost average was almost counterbalanced by the sharp fall in grade, the working surplus of £553,100 showing little change. The cut in the dividend rate from 8s. 9d. to 8s. per share is chiefly accounted for by the appropriation of £17,200 for capital expenditure, although the carry-forward is added to instead of being drawn upon as in the two preceding years. The trifling decrease in the ore reserve tonnage is explained by reduction in the stoping width. The consulting engineers emphasise that a record development footage was performed last year, and that a large programme is contemplated for the current session, particularly in the Western section, upon which reliance will fall to be placed in an increasing degree. Nervousness regarding the outlook will be alleviated by the acquisition of the adjoining Witbank property. To provide the purchase price of £200,000 a small share issue is apparently intended. The progressive decline in development values at the West Springs found reflection last year in a cut in the dividend rate from 2s. to 1s. 6d. per share, but £103,850 is carried forward, as against £88,440 brought in. Once again the profits were insufficient for the Government's percentage to come into effect. "The disclosures made in the Western, Southern and South-Western districts of the mine continued to be disappointing." In these circumstances much importance attaches to the outcome of further work in a section where two boreholes have given encouraging indications. With the Daggafontein, last year was a notable period as the last before the commencement of crushing. The subscription of additional shares (at a premium) raised the issued capital to £1,603,800. On December 31st the net cash assets amounted to £23,560—a modest margin. This company's entry into the production stage is notable for the fact that a profit of £6,000 was reported for the second month, followed by £14,500 in respect of March—the latter from the treatment of 36,000 tons. The capacity of the present plant is 50,000 tons per month minimum, and an increase is envisaged.

Globe and Phœnix.—Our mining correspondent writes: The enhancement in the profits of the last three months of 1931, consequent upon Southern Rhodesia's departure from the gold standard, naturally aroused hopes of an increase in the dividend total for the year. In the event not only is there no supplementary distribution, but the usual date has passed without any interim announcement on account of the current year. At £171,000 the earnings of 1931 show an expansion of £44,500 compared with those of the preceding period. But taxation now absorbs £45,250, in place of £22,350, while the allocation to depreciation is £48,000 against only £6,400. Thus, after repetition of the dividend total of 40 per cent., tax free, the balance forward is somewhat down at £34,900. The utilisation of the bulk of the increase in earnings in the manner indicated is due to the necessity of replacing the power plant. Action in this respect was prudently delayed until developments proved it to be warranted. It is estimated that the savings to be effected will redeem the cost of the plant in three years. At 124,000 tons the ore reserve total is 14,800 tons above that of twelve months ago, the value being about ¼ dwt. lower at 24¼ dwt. The consulting engineer sums up the development position by stating that the ground in the north end of the mine has been well explored, although the possibilities of finding more ore in this direction are not completely exhausted; in the south end of the mine there are still large areas to be explored and developed. The absence of any interim dividend may be explained by certain legal proceedings—to which no reference is made in the report. The 5s. shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange at around 14s. 6d.

Rezende.—A satisfactory feature in the position of this Rhodesian enterprise is the comparatively small extent of the shrinkage in the ore reserves. Development continued to be attended with negative results; but actual stoping last year proved the ore bodies to carry payable values over greater widths than reckoned upon, while of the ore crushed 17,600 tons came from pillars and old workings. Hence, despite the extraction from the mine of 88,300 tons, the ore reserves are only 21,000 tons down at 159,000 tons. Continuation of anything like these conditions would give the mine a life substantially in excess of the two years indicated by the reserves. The earnings of 1931 were swollen by £5,000 from bullion reserve, and at the same time costs were lowered, the profit coming out at £72,600, as against £64,000. As for each of the three preceding periods, the dividends totalled 5s. per share, the par value of which has meantime been reduced by the return of 2s. 6d. The options on the neighbouring Reliance and Monarch properties have been abandoned, results not proving encouraging enough to warrant further outlay. In their place, a small participation has been taken in an alluvial gold dredging venture in Portuguese East Africa, a mineral reservation has been secured in the same territory, and an option over a gold mine in Rhodesia. The balance sheet shows net cash assets £113,700, against an issued capital of £131,250.

St. John del Rey.—Last year the management of this veteran property took advantage of the gold premium to treat ore of lower grade than would otherwise have been profitable. Hence, although the availability of an ample supply of labour permitted the crushing of an increased tonnage, the gold yield was 7,700 ozs. down at 115,500 ozs. With the premium, however, the value was £16,300 up at £541,500. The working costs being reduced, the net profit came out at £142,300, as against £124,400. From the latter the fortunate shareholders received a "centenary bonus" of 6d. per share, making a total of 2s. 6d. The final dividend for 1931 of 1s. 3d. brings the amount up to 2s., £60,000 being transferred to capital works account, £20,000 more than on the previous occasion. It may be noted that the Brazilian exchange last year averaged only 3,932d. per milreis, instead of 5.386d. during 1930. The performance of an increased amount of development work was attended with satisfactory results, except in one of the outside properties. In the principal mine (the Morro Velho) the ore reserves, at 1,552,300 tons, show an increase of 244,100 tons on the year, although they include only material payable with gold at par. Altogether there would seem to be no reason for those who hold shares to part with their interest.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Bank of Athens, United Kingdom Provident Institution, Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, Telephone Properties, Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Imperial Chemical Industries, London County Freehold and Leasehold Properties, British Enka Artificial Silk, Paquin, Rio Tinto, and Ooregum Gold Mining of India. At the annual meeting of Associated Portland Cement, Mr Malcolm Stewart outlined the events leading up to the purchase by the company of the "Red Triangle" group. The purchase had involved an alteration of the working agreement with British Portland Cement, which allocated the percentage of the aggregate deliveries each company was entitled to make, and provided compensation for under-deliveries. The agreement, which had been in operation for twelve years and had worked without a hitch, had abolished overlapping of selling effort, increased economy in administration and provided for each company its fair proportion of profit from the aggregate tonnage delivered. Referring to other aspects of rationalisation, the chairman said the company's total cost of production had fallen by 28 per cent. in the last seven years, while the cost of raw materials had remained virtually constant. The average net selling price, however, had fallen by 36 per cent., the margin of profit per ton in 1931 being approximately half that of 1925. At the annual meeting of London County Freehold and Leasehold, the chairman stated that the great majority of flat rentals averaged less than £200 a year, 1,393 producing under £100 a year, and 2,276 under £200 a year. The company was, therefore, in a favourable position to supply the demand for reasonably rented flat premises. At the Bank of Athens meeting the chairman said that the slump in raw materials and agricultural products had particularly affected the tobacco and currant industries. Greece was experiencing considerable difficulty in selling her crops.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

This week's new issues comprise two offers of trustee stock and two industrial debenture issues. The issue of the *Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Ltd.*, was left as to 73 per cent. with underwriters. The Corporation, whose results are dealt with in a Note on page 864, is regarded as having made a satisfactory start with its useful work, and the absorption of the whole of the present issue by the permanent investor may be looked for in the very near future. The *County Borough of West Bromwich* issue is the cheapest corporation offer, from the borrower's point of view, for some time, the borough having taken full advantage of the recent rise in gilt-edged prices. More than half the proceeds are to be used to repay short-term loans. The total rate in the borough is 15s. in the £. The offer for sale of 5½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock of *Slaters and Bodega, Ltd.*, made at par by the British Shareholders Trust (who purchased at 96, paying underwriting commission and other expenses), was covered 3½ times by net assets and approximately the same number of times by profits in an old-established and progressive business. The offer by *Meccano, Ltd.*, of 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at 97½ was of more speculative character, as the yield indicates. Profits have been affected by economic depression, but past finance has been conservative, and the debenture stock is reasonably well secured.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Total recorded, January 1 to April 9, 1932, excluding conversions, £22,192,622
Total recorded, January 1 to April 9, 1932, including conversions, £143,513,315

National Savings Certificates.

Net receipts, April 1 to April 9, 1932, *Dr.* £1,700,000.

To the Public.	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability £
Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, £2,000,000 4½% deb. stk. 1961-91, issued at 95%	2,000,000	...	1,900,000	100,000	1,900,000
Meccano, Ltd., £200,000 6% 1st mt. deb. stock at 97½%	200,000	...	195,000	10,000	185,000
Slaters and Bodega, £350,000 5½% mt. deb. stk., at par	350,000	...	350,000	17,500	332,500
West Bromwich £650,000 4½% red. stk. 1955-65 issued at 99½%	650,000	...	646,750	32,500	614,250
Total offered to the Public, week ended April 16, 1932	3,200,000	...	3,091,750	160,000	2,931,750
To Shareholders only—					
Fortnum and Mason, 50,000 7% cum. pref. £1 at 21s.	50,000	...	52,500	6,250	46,250
Murex 500,000 7% cum.pref.£1 at 21s.	500,000	...	525,000	62,500	462,500
Total offered to Shareholders only, week ended April 16, 1932	550,000	...	577,500	68,750	508,750

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Jan. 1 to date—		
1932	145,481,465	24,161,872
1931	59,689,555	50,019,606
1930	162,540,066	106,044,548
1929	114,064,030	100,484,810
1928	...	176,948,000
1927	...	150,709,484
1926	...	79,202,450
1925	...	55,504,718

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Whole year—		
1931	114,290,668	102,044,231
1930	454,888,784	267,809,700
1929	488,764,940	385,238,600
1928	693,100,056	369,050,013
1927	...	355,165,900
1926	...	230,783,000
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	309,336,301

Nature of Borrowing.

	Debentures, Bonds, &c.	Preference Stocks and Shares.	Ordinary Stocks and Shares.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
January 1 to date—				
1932	21,185,764	2,332,500	693 608	24,161,872
1931	40,245,574	727,571	9,046,461	50,019,606
1930	106,094,548	11,400,697	8,309,707	106,044,548
Whole year—				
1931	74,835,599	6,911,859	20,296,833	102,044,291
1930	227,658,500	15,548,800	24,593,300	267,800,600
1929	137,670,300	31,543,400	116,025,700	285,239,400
1928	218,817,900	45,062,600	111,177,600	369,058,100
1927	228,958,000	36,836,600	98,381,400	355,156,600
1926	145,180,000	39,393,200	46,209,500	230,782,600

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	3,854,750	...	4,058,423
Total, week ended April 16, 1932	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1932	3,854,750	...	4,058,423
Total to date, 1931	3,623,875	...	3,714,257

Public Offers.

Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.—Issue of £2,000,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock, 1961–91, at £95 per cent. The stock is a trustee investment. The corporation was formed in pursuance of the Agricultural Credits Act, 1928, principally for the purposes of making loans on first mortgages of agricultural or farming estates and of making loans in accordance with the Improvement of Land Acts. The company has carried on business since January 14, 1929. The principal assets of the company consist of the mortgages held by the company in respect of loans made by it, and the guarantee fund, paid to the company by the Minister of Agriculture, which now amounts to £650,000, and has to be invested in British Government securities. Interest received in 1931–2 amounted to £504,669, and in 1930–31 to £436,018. Debenture interest required £425,000 in 1931–2 and £381,250 in 1930–31. The stock will be redeemed over the years 1941–91 by the operation of a cumulative sinking fund of 11s. 3d. per cent. per annum. Any stock not previously redeemed will be repaid at par on December 1, 1991, but the company reserve the power to redeem at par on any interest date on or after December 1, 1961, on three months' notice.

County Borough of West Bromwich.—Issue of £650,000 West Bromwich Corporation 4½ per cent. redeemable stock, 1955–65, at £99¼ per cent. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. The issue will be redeemable at par on October 1, 1965, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the corporation will have the option of redemption, in whole or part, at any time on or after October 1, 1955, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the borough is £306,043, and a rate of one penny in the £ will produce £1,220. Of the proceeds of the issue, £395,796 will be applied to the repayment of existing short-term loans and the remainder to development purposes.

Slaters and Bodega.—Offer for sale of £350,000 5½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock at £100 per cent., secured by a trust deed constituting a first specific mortgage on 23 freehold and two long leasehold properties, and a floating charge on the balance of the company's assets. The company have the right to redeem the 5½ per cent. stock on April 1, 1953, or any subsequent interest date, at 105 per cent., on six months' notice. The business of Slaters was founded in 1828 and was amalgamated with the Bodega Company in 1928. Net profits, after charging interest on the £100,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock outstanding, but before charging income tax and interest on loans, amounted to £69,712 (adjusted for 12 months) in 1929, £83,093 in 1930, and £86,011 in 1931. Interest on the present issue requires £19,250. The proceeds will be applied to paying off the bank overdraft and developing the company.

Meccano.—Issue of £200,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at £97½ per cent. The stock will be secured by trust deed and will be redeemed by means of a cumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, commencing April 1, 1933, and operating by annual drawings at 100 per cent. or by purchase or otherwise at or under 100 per cent. Any stock not previously redeemed will be repaid on April 1, 1960, at 100 per cent. The company was converted into a public company on March 12, 1932, and carried on the business of manufacture, distribution and sale of Meccano outfits. The object of the issue is to repay a bank overdraft, against which £175,000 of first mortgage debentures have been issued. These debentures will be cancelled. Net profits, after depreciation, but before charging income tax and interest, totalled £69,153 in 1929, £50,514 in 1930, and £52,141 in 1931. These figures do not include profits and/or losses of subsidiaries, which [illegible] have made substantial profits over the period 1927–31.

Great Yarmouth Water Works.—Issue by tender of £40,000 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock, minimum price £102 per £100, yielding at that price £4 18s. per cent. The net revenue of the company for the year ended March 25, 1931, was £27,272. Interest on debenture stock, including the present issue, amounts to £4,708, so that it is more than five times covered.

Stock Exchange "Introductions."

Gateshead Corporation.—Particulars of an issue of £350,000 4½ per cent. redeemable stock, 1952–62, to be redeemed at par on May 1, 1932, the Corporation to retain the option of redeeming in whole or part at any time on or after May 1, 1952, on six months' notice. The stock is a trustee security. The proceeds will be applied to local development purposes and to the repayment of debt. The stock has been sold to J. and A. Scrimgeour at £99 per cent., less ½ per cent commission. It is secured on the Corporation funds and revenues and ranks *pari passu* with all other loans of the Corporation.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
INSURANCE.				%	%
Drapers and General	20	...	...	20	20
Guildhall Insurance	10	...	Less tax	10	10
Royal Exchange Assurance	...	...	...	27	27
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Hornsey Tea	10%*	Apr. 18	...	...	...
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Tea	2½%†	Apr. 18	...	5	5
Scottish Tea and Lands	2%†	May 2	...	...	...
MINING.					
Union Corporation	...	...	...	2/6 p.s.	3/3 p.s.
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Aberdeen Trust	2½%	Apr. 21	Less tax	...	...
Adams Peak Tea	4%†	...	...	...	...
African City Props.	6%†	...	...	12	12
American Investment and Gen. (Def.)	...	...	...	9	12
Ansell's Brewery	5%†	Apr. 30	...	...	...
Bombay Gas	4½%†	...	Less tax	8	...
Bristol United Breweries	5%*	...	...	...	...
British and Bevington's	...	...	...	10	10
British Canadian Trust	4%*	Apr. 16	Less tax	...	...
Browne and Eagle	7%†	...	...	10	9
Burmah Oil (First and Sec. Pref.)	3s. 7½†	Apr. 30	Less tax	...	...
Calcutta Electric Sup.	7%†	...	...	12	12
Clarence Hotels (Dublin)	8%†	...	...	...	...
Con. Waterworks of Rosario	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	8
County of Durham Elec.	6·3	...	...	6·3	5
Dawson Bros. (London)	6	...	...	6	7½
Direct Supply Aerated Water	6%†	...	...	11	15
Electrolux	...	...	...	8	9
Folkestone Electric	6%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Foreign American and General Trust	...	...	...	7	10
Halford Cycles	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
H. J. Searle and Son	10	...	...	10	11
Hope Bros.	4½%†	...	...	7	8
Johns, Son and Watts (Pref.)	6%†	...	...	...	...
John V. Hutton	5%†	Apr. 21	...	...	...
J. S. Darwen and Company	15	...	Tax free	15	15
Kean and Scott	...	...	...	3	7½
Kenward and Court	2½%*	Apr. 23	...	...	...
Lane Bros.	6	...	Less tax	6	10
London Trust (Def.)	10%†	...	...	16	20
Madras Electric Tramways	5	...	Tax free	5	2½
Mount Venron (Ceylon) Tea	10%†	...	...	25	30
Radcliffe's Edible Products	...	...	...	2½	10
River Plate Electricity	...	...	...	10½	10½
Roches Stores, Dublin	...	...	...	5	5
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Tea	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Scottish Capital Investment	3½%†	...	...	6	7
Second Caledonian Trust	3%†	...	...	6	7
Second Edinburgh Investments (Def.)	...	...	...	3	6
Second Scot. Invest.	6%*	...	...	...	...
Second Scottish Northern Investment	5%†	Apr. 10	...	10	15
Soho	7½%†	...	...	20	20
Spratt's Patent (America)	...	...	...	12½c	12½
Stanley Bros.	5%†	Apr. 21	Tax free	...	...
Tamworth District Electric	4%†	...	...	6	...
Telephones Properties	4%†	...	...	...	...
Third Scottish Western Invest.	3½%†	...	...	7	...
United Drapery	...	...	...	2½	5
United Flexible Metallic Tubing	3½%†	Apr. 3	...	5½	6
United Flexible Metal Tubing	3½%†	...	...	5½	6
U.S. & South Am. Invest. Trust	7%	...	...	11	14
Vine Products	10	...	Less tax	10	12½
W. H. Brakspear	7%†	...	...	12½	12½
Warwickshire Coal	...	...	...	17½	15
Wellingborough Elec. Sup.	5	...	...	5	5
Western Transport	4	...	...	4	4
West London & Provincial Trust	2½%†	...	...	5	9
Wickens Pease Co.	...	...	...	4	4
William Blythe and Co.	5%†	...	...	7	8
William Nash	3%†	...	...	5	...
Yorkshire (Wool. Dic.) Elec. Tr.	10	...	...	...	...

(c) Plus bonus of 6d. p.s.

Borax Consolidated, Ltd.—The directors have decided to postpone the consideration of payment of the dividend on the preferred ordinary shares until the accounts for the full financial year terminating September 30th next are available.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

PROGRESS WITH RATIONALISATION AND CENTRALISATION.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

TARIFF PROSPECTS AND POSSIBILITIES.

SIR HARRY McGOWAN'S REVIEW.

The fifth annual general meeting of Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at Central Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.

Sir Harry McGowan, K.B.E. (the chairman) said that the year's trading of Imperial Chemical Industries had exceeded expectations. That the company had been able to show a gross income before depreciation of only £461,072 less than in 1930 was ground for real satisfaction.

The expression "gross profit for the year" hitherto used in the profit and loss account had been altered so as to describe the company's sources of income and to make it clearer that the dividends of the principal subsidiaries were paid before providing for their depreciation of buildings and plant. The central obsolescence and depreciation fund existed for that purpose. The total disposable income for the year amounted to £5,322,168, out of which, after appropriations for central obsolescence and income tax, £4,061,773 was left for dividend purposes. Payment of the preference and ordinary dividends amounted to £3,544,948, leaving a carry-forward of £516,825, which was £136,658 less than in the year previously. It was felt that that small encroachment was justified. The amount placed to central obsolescence—£1,000,000—was double that so allocated last year, since it was essential to have a strong obsolescence fund in order continually to keep pace with the improvements in plant and machinery brought about by the advance of knowledge.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The only comment he wished to make on the profit and loss account was that the income for the year contained nothing of an exceptional nature, and related solely to the year's operations. It included neither profit arising from the sale of investments, nor any transfers from reserve funds accumulated in past years, and it was arrived at after making full provision for the reduced value of all stocks of materials, stores and finished products.

As in previous years, the dividends from the wholly-owned subsidiary companies represented their full profits, subject to the statement under the Companies Act, 1929, printed at the end of the annual report.

The directors' report for 1931 gave the shareholders particulars of the movements of the volume of trade during that year as regarded their principal products. No other explanation of the decreases was needed than the general condition of world affairs, of which the daily Press provided ample detail. No industrial enterprise to-day, however wide its ramifications, however skilful its management, or however efficient its staff and workers, could hope completely to escape from the over-riding effects of the semi-paralysis of international trade, the chaos of monetary conditions and the unrelenting pressure of a continuous fall in prices.

BALANCE SHEET.

The balance sheet showed that £1,837,596 had been written off the shares and debentures in and advances to subsidiary companies. The company had adhered to their policy of concentrating manufacture where most advantageous, and had closed down certain plants. That did not lead to a reduction in earning power but tended to increase it. As a result of inquiry at Billingham it had been decided to write off a number of specific items which in the light of improved methods did not justify the value at which they stood in the books. To provide for that writing down £2,000,000 had been taken from general reserve, which was thereby reduced to £10,725,000, central obsolescence fund being increased from £4,500,000 to £5,662,404. Nothing had been added to the general reserve out of the year's profits because a year of extreme depression was not the time to increase reserves which were already powerful.

They had continued the policy of 1930 of carrying their marketable and other investments at their book value. A time of world financial crisis defied any attempt to decide what was a reasonable normal value of an investment. The note on the balance sheet stated that, at December 31, 1931, the market or computed value of their marketable and other investments showed a depreciation of £3,346,565 on book value. That represented a fall in value during 1931 of £622,200. When conditions were more stable, it might be necessary to review the book value of that asset. In the meantime, even on the lower values of to-day the general reserve amply covered the depreciation.

The shares and debentures in and advances to subsidiary companies, shown in the balance sheet at £69,264,978, represented in the main the company's holdings in the eight manufacturing groups referred to in the report, namely, alkali, general chemical, explosives, fertiliser and synthetic products, dyestuffs, leathercloth, lime and metals. The shares and debentures in associated companies standing in the balance sheet at £6,522,062 represented in the main their investments in African Explosives and Industries, Limited, Canadian Industries, Limited, and a number of smaller Dominion and foreign companies engaged in industrial activities cognate to their own. The marketable and other investments, standing at £9,540,677, represented investments in large industrial companies with which they had, directly or indirectly, trade connections. The main items were investments in the General Motors Corporation, Du Pont and Company and the Allied Chemical Company in the United States, the International Nickel Company in Canada, the I.G. Farbenindustrie in Germany, and Joseph Lucas and Sons in this country.

The only other item on the balance sheet upon which he need comment was the amount of cash at bankers and in hand. It showed an increase over the amount at the end of 1930 of £1,294,534, and now stood at £4,222,900. They had, therefore, ample liquid resources for a long time to come.

THE CHANGE IN FISCAL POLICY.

He was naturally gratified at the change in the fiscal policy of the country. There would be difficulties to be overcome and some temporary uncertainty as to the readjustments of trade which would follow the change. Imperial Chemical Industries were in an advantageous position for two reasons. First, most of their raw materials were home produced. Secondly, they stood to be little affected by retaliatory measures.

He believed that the new trade opportunities presented by a tariff could only be utilised satisfactorily through more closely-knit industrial entities, welding into one body existing competitive units. Imperial Chemical Industries was to-day regarded in many countries as the British prototype of large-scale business, but doubts had recently been expressed about the soundness and permanence of such concerns. Those sprang from a few striking failures. It was an elementary fallacy to assume that what was true in one or two instances must be true in general. Specific failures did not invalidate the soundness of a principle. Imperial Chemical Industries was as free as it could be made from the defects which elsewhere had led to trouble. To begin with, members of the company's board had been freed from definite executive duties so as to be able to give attention to new problems as they arose. They were daily in touch with one another. Their policy was hammered out in candid discussion.

ORGANISATION OF SUBSIDIARIES.

Their principal subsidiary companies in the United Kingdom were organised in eight groups, the names of which were given in the annual report. Every group contained a number of separate companies, the products of which were cognate to each other. For all purposes of control and administration they treated the companies that formed one group as a unit. The statutory board of each of those companies was the parent company, viz., Imperial Chemical Industries, so that there was a uniform legal controlling authority vested in their own board. That method of control ensured harmonious working and co-ordinated direction over the whole wide field of the company's activities. Group or company inter-competition was avoided, there was no conflict of authority, and wasteful duplication was eliminated. Each group had a subordinate board, which was in reality the group executive, consisting entirely of members of their staff, some attached to the companies within the group, and the remainder to head office; none of the company's directors acted in that capacity. All technical, commercial, financial and administrative problems, concerning any group were therefore studied in the first place, as affecting the

entity, although in putting decisions into effect they naturally complied with any obligations arising out of the separate legal existence of each company.

The necessary co-ordinating link between himself and his full-time colleagues on their general purposes committee and the various group executives was provided by an intermediate body which the directors called the central administration committee. It was composed of the group chairmen and a number of their headquarters senior officers, and was presided over by one of his colleagues. Through that machinery they secured both devolution of responsibility and a free channel of communication from the factories right up to the chairman and the board. Devolution encouraged decision and self-reliance. Free communication permitted of orderly reference on points of policy and rapid execution of decision.

Some people asked whether so large an organisation could be efficiently managed without losing elasticity and initiative. The company's system fostered and preserved those qualities. Apart from new policies and activities instituted by their own board, much of their management lay in harmonising the impulses for action which continually welled up from below. Their ideal was a thoroughly dovetailed executive staff, well balanced, self-supporting, with a clearly defined policy, so that its full power should not be impaired or even shaken by the loss of any one individual.

INTERNAL ECONOMIES.

This scheme of control had been used for the continuous study of internal economies, in which the centralised service departments at Millbank had played a large part. The company had steadily aimed at concentrating manufacture by fresh capital expenditure at the most appropriate point as well as by the transference of business. Some factories also had been sold, some demolished and some held for fresh developments. That physical rationalisation was not yet complete.

On the side of financial rationalisation the company had early achieved a large measure of uniformity, but much remained to be done in eliminating disadvantages arising from the separate existence of different companies. Steps were being gradually taken to reduce the number of those, one of which was the registration last week of the Imperial Chemical Industries (Explosives), Limited. Companies which had already been dispensed with had been liquidated after their assets and business had been transferred elsewhere in the group. The liquidation of an Imperial Chemical Industries company was not due to failure. He wanted to make that clear. Liquidation of any of their subsidiary companies represented not a tale of disaster but a mark of progress in the work of financial rationalisation. In the future there would be more of them, but care would be taken to see that the goodwill of their names should be preserved.

The administrative policy had to be thanked for the progress made in wage and salary adjustments, which had been achieved without friction. The fact that wage reductions were accepted in a spirit of good will was a tribute both to the workers and to the company's labour policy. In addition to economies so effected, the most careful scrutiny had been made of every class of expenditure and all outlays not judged sufficiently remunerative or promising eliminated.

NEW PRODUCTS.

The fruits of a policy of rationalised production and research were to be found in their new products. They were now manufacturing some fifty dyestuffs hitherto not manufactured in this country and had improved the quality of many others. Research in the dyestuffs laboratories had also been applied to rubber accelerators, anti-oxidants, softeners, &c. They had successfully co-operated with other concerns in the search for a British-made celluloid for safety glass.

Rapid progress was also taking place in Dulux "new process" paints and varnishes, which could be used when nitro-cellulose was unsuitable. The range of low freezing blasting explosives had been extended by the introduction of more powerful compositions. Special types of black powder, one for slate blasting and one for use in tropical climates, had also been developed. Improvements had been effected in rifle ammunition of the high velocity type, which had greatly increased accuracy in long-range target competition. That had also materially improved their competitive position. They had placed on the market a solid carbon dioxide refrigerant, developed at Billingham, and sold under the name of Drikold. It would, they believed, play a large part in enabling perishable foodstuffs to be marketed in perfect condition. It had, in addition, other important industrial applications. To develop the mineral resources at Billingham, a range of new building materials based on anhydrite was now being placed on the market. He might add that the production at Billingham of general chemicals, [illegible] last year, namely, concentrated compound fertilisers, methanol, nitric acid, acetic acid, etc., had shown [illegible] progress during 1931.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

In some respects the purposes of tariffs and international agreements were in conflict. Unassisted as they had been in the past by tariffs, he and his colleagues had been convinced believers in the long-range wisdom of international agreements as instruments of world rationalisation of industry. Co-operation, they had always found, was better in the long run than competitive warfare.

In pursuance of that policy they had recently concluded an agreement, following protracted negotiations, with the Continental manufacturers of dyestuffs. For some years arrangements had existed between French, German and Swiss makers under which they co-operated with one another and marketed their products in an orderly manner. He was inclined to think that for some time the British dye industry had been regarded as not having proved its permanence. The agreement entered into with Continental dyestuffs manufacturers was an assurance that the British dye industry had proved its permanence. It would strengthen the international position of the industry. They had also participated in another international agreement which unfortunately was of but short duration. The International Nitrogen Convention had, during its short life, done much to assist in orderly marketing apart from its substantial contribution towards regulating production to consumption, but negotiations last summer for the continuance of the Convention had unfortunately broken down.

On the other hand, the formation of the International Hydrogenation Patents Company, in April last, was a far-sighted piece of action to avoid conflict or waste in the future world industrial development of the great scientific achievement of the production of oil from coal.

The necessity of co-operating with manufacturers in the British Dominions overseas had always been recognised by Imperial Chemical Industries. The ideas to be developed at Ottawa had long animated the company's actions, so that to-day most of their practical ends had been achieved. In Australasia, Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand, Limited, in Canada, Canadian Industries, Limited, in South Africa African Explosives and Industries, Limited, each had factories on the spot. The imperial character of their work had met with the sympathy of the respective governments. Though none had escaped the ravages of 1931, the fact that each company should have been able to yielp rates of return almost equal to those of 1930 was a fine tribute to their soundness and initiative. There need be no fears for their future. In other overseas markets, Imperial Chemical Industries were following the same policy of close and friendly liaison with the principal makers of the same class of goods, and as world problems were solved, he believed that there would be a satisfactory growth in the trade of the Imperial Chemical Industries selling companies.

BRIGHTER OUTLOOK.

Prophecy was dangerous, but in his view the outlook was brighter than it had been for some time. Great Britain had regained her monetary freedom, so that industry had its future much more in its own hands. Behind the security of a tariff, industries which had not yet been able to organise themselves upon modern lines or talk upon even terms with their foreign competitors, would be able to look forward with more confidence. The sales of Imperial Chemical Industries products at home were so intimately tied to the prosperity of the principal industries that everything which helped them to better their conditions should improve those of Imperial Chemical Industries. So far as the evidence of the early months of 1932 was available, it went to show that British industry was becoming more active. That was a hopeful augury for the year.

The economies which Imperial Chemical Industries had been able to introduce were another encouraging factor. No organisation would be better equipped to grasp any and every opportunity which might present itself. But it must be remembered that Imperial Chemical Industries was a great international organisation. There was not a single country of importance in the world in whose prosperity, directly or indirectly, they were not interested. Even should the reparations problem of the world be solved, there still remained a huge network of international commercial debts unadjusted to the present low prices of goods. Until some broad lines of solution were agreed upon, it was to be feared that the restrictions on international trade would be continued. In so far as that happened, the trade of Imperial Chemical Industries would be affected in some part of the world or another. But it could be said that unless some unforeseen calamity should overtake the world, the results of the company's trading for 1932 should be at least as good as those for 1931. If the first three months were any index, they should be better.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, which was carried.

ASSOCIATED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

DIFFICULT TRADING YEAR.

RED TRIANGLE ACQUISITION.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Limited, was held, on the 13th instant, at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C., Mr P. Malcolm Stewart, chairman and one of the managing directors of the company, presiding.

Mr J. A. White (the secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting, and Mr H. Crewdson Howard, representing the auditors, Messrs Crewdson, Youatt and Howard, having read the report of his firm,

The Chairman, in the course of his address, gave a full review of the accounts and said: If you will turn to the balance sheet you will observe that the issued preference share capital has been increased by £180,280, raising the total to £2,500,000, and the issued ordinary share capital by £500,000, bringing up the total to £3,500,000. The combined share capitals stand at £6,000,000, both classes being fully issued. The 5 per cent. second debenture stock has also been increased by the sale and issue of £900,000 of stock. These increases in share and loan capital amount in all to £1,580,280, and were effected for the purpose of financing the purchase of the cement and other undertakings of the companies known as the Red Triangle Group.

Turning to the profit and loss account for the year, you will see that the profit on trading, at £668,386, shows an increase of £133,605, whereas the interest and dividends earned, at £355,622, show a reduction of £64,347, due mainly to decreased returns from the companies in which we are interested overseas. I want to make it quite clear that the trading profits benefited because we felt justified last year in making a reduced provision for taxation in view of the ample reserves previously created and that, whilst the profit and loss account has benefited from the inclusion of six months' profits from the new works acquired, our Portland cement trading account on a comparative basis showed a substantially decreased profit compared with 1930. This is due to the lower selling prices realised owing to severe competition.

The loss of profit due to low prices has to a considerable extent been offset by the improved profits earned by our subsidiary manufactures, which we have been nursing for some years; they have furnished an increased proportion of the total profits earned.

SHARE AND DEBENTURE ISSUE EXPENSES.

We have written off the whole of the expenses incurred in connection with the issue of shares and debenture stock, partly from contingencies reserve and partly from profits. I am confident that shareholders will feel gratified to learn that these expenses have been dealt with in the same year as that in which they were incurred, and that future years have been relieved of the burden of providing for them. (Hear, hear.)

The total revenue for the year was £1,024,712, an increase on last year's figure of £69,562, and we are able, after meeting our debenture stock interest and providing £427,655 for depreciation reserves and debenture stock sinking funds, and the payment of the dividend, amounting to £137,500 on the increased 5½ per cent. preference share capital, to recommend to you the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. on the 3,000,000 ordinary shares issued prior to August, 1931, and 4 per cent. on the 500,000 ordinary shares issued in August, 1931. These dividends absorb £260,000, and there remains a balance of £2,463 to be added to the carry-forward, which will then stand at £163,427.

AN OUTSTANDING EVENT.

The outstanding event of the year was the acquisition of the manufacturing and certain marketing interests of the Red Triangle Group embraced by the Allied Cement Manufacturers, Limited, and its subsidiary companies. On several occasions we had been offered shares which it was stated would give control. These offers were consistently declined. We had definitely made up our minds that, in view of the many knots into which these concerns were tied by an undesirable interlocking of interests, life was not long enough to attempt the task of their unravelling. We were only prepared to become interested if the knots could be cut, and this involved liquidation. The assets of the allied company were of varying value; liquidation alone could give complete freedom to fit them advantageously into our own organisation.

The time came when we made the Receiver, Sir William McLintock, a definite offer for practically the whole of the assets, provided they were bought in liquidation. This offer was declined; an improved offer, which was made on April 22nd, was accepted subjected to the confirmation of the court. This was given on August 19th. I make this statement so as to place the matter in its true perspective. We paid a fair price for the assets and I am satisfied, given fair trading conditions, we shall turn the purchase to advantage.

THE TRADING POLICY.

During the year under review trading has been carried on under difficulties of a varied character. The aggregate deliveries of Blue Circle Portland cement in all markets were but slightly below those of the previous year. It was inevitable that we should feel the effects of the world crisis and the tonnages exported showed a heavy decrease. On the other hand the deliveries in the home market were expanded, but the selling prices realised were reduced by the keen undercutting of the standard prices which had remained in force although they had not been maintained.

We are not and never have been in favour of high prices, on the contrary we are anxious to increase further the uses of cement by establishing the lowest prices compatible with the maintenance of a sound balance sheet and a fair return to the shareholders, a difficult task in an industry faced continuously with over-production. The policy of factory concentration, embarked on seven years ago, has enabled us to make successive reductions in our costs of manufacture.

Last year the margin of profit earned per ton was approximately one half of that earned in 1925. It goes without saying that we could not have so substantially reduced prices to the consumer and at the same time have earned even the modest dividends paid in the past few years had we not been successful in marketing a much increased tonnage.

PROSPECTS.

You will expect to hear something from me as to the prospects for the current year. To be frank, it is not easy to make a definite forecast, but we know the barometer has risen and, I believe, is still rising.

Although we are faced with considerable uncertainty and have to date felt the effects of the decreased activity in the building industry, I am hopeful that as the year progresses we shall benefit from an increase of wise building which should be encouraged by the remarks of the Prime Minister in a recent speech.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the approval of the dividends paid and recommended to be paid.

Major-General Sir Philip A. M. Nash, K.C.M.G., C.B., the vice-chairman, in seconding the motion, said that, with the acquisition of the manufacturing assets and certain other interests of the Red Triangle Group, it might be said that the company had successfully passed an important milestone in its progress, and he thought the occasion would be incomplete if a well-earned tribute were not paid to Mr Stewart and his fellow managing directors, who not only had had the responsibility for the daily conduct of the affairs of their large undertaking in a year of unusual difficulties, but had also to negotiate the large and important transaction which had involved eventually the taking over of the assets and interests of the Red Triangle Group. The principal burden of the negotiations had fallen on Mr Stewart himself, but it had meant also a great deal of additional work for the other managing directors and their staffs, among whom he felt sure the chairman would like him to mention their old friend, Mr Alfred Stevens. (Applause.) The company was particularly fortunate in the strength of its administrative personnel—an asset which could not be shown in its full value on the face of a balance sheet—and it was also fortunate in possessing a chairman of such outstanding business ability as theirs. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Chairman proposed and Mr Alfred Stevens seconded the re-election of the retiring directors, Major-General Sir Philip Nash, K.C.M.G., C.B., the Right Hon. Lord Meston, K.C.S.I., Mr R. C. Charleton, and Mr G. F. Earle, which was carried unanimously, and the auditors, Messrs Crewdson, Youatt and Howard, having been reappointed, a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff, proposed by Mr T. Gilbert Scott, closed the meeting.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

STRENGTH AND PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY.

A SAFE AND STABLE INVESTMENT.

The 124th annual general meeting of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society was held on April 12th at Norwich.

Mr Michael Falcon (the president) said that those who had studied closely the trend of our country's finance during the past decade knew that, instead of a readjustment of major importance on the lines of strict economy, State and municipal extravagance, accompanied by reckless company finance, led up to the crisis which culminated in the closing months of last year. The combined effect was detrimental to all enterprise and thrift. The period of readjustment had again arrived, and the outlook suggested that this time it was being grasped by all right-thinking British people. During the whole decade life assurance had been on the increase in this country, even in a troublous year like 1931.

The reason was that life assurance was recognised as a security superior in stability to all other forms of investment. The progressive figures of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society demonstrated this, as was shown in the annual report. The net premium income of the life insurance account was £3,492,402, and included £507,180 received by way of new premiums on policies effected during the year. The total exceeded the premiums of the previous year by £188,252. The new life insurance written was £8,249,645, an increase of £216,011, or 2.7 per cent. The insurances in force at the end of the year totalled £99,053,837, and showed an increase on the amount outstanding at the beginning of the year of £6,532,814. The insurance societies were the mediums through which dependants were shielded from want; and for many their endowment policies constituted a valuable, if not the only, provision for those whose earning days were over. The large aggregate premium income, coupled with careful investment and sound economy in management, must and did ensure the stability of the fund from which all benefits to its members were derived.

INVESTMENTS.

The mortality experience for the year worked out at 70 per cent. of the expected. This compared with 61 per cent. in 1930 and an average rate of 65 per cent. over the last five years. The net income from investments amounted to £1,648,563, an increase of £53,466, and showed a net return, after payment of income tax, of £4 17s. 5d., before making provision for depreciation. The movement towards a better condition of affairs in Britain was gradually gathering momentum, but, as depreciation had affected the whole world, it had been thought best to write out of the accounts the depreciation on Stock Exchange securities as at December 31st last at a cost of £1,098,746, even although as much as £600,000 of appreciation had taken place on a re-valuation as at March 31st. The society had £11,600,000 mortgages in and outside the United Kingdom. These were all revised carefully by the directors at the end of December, 1930, and, as showing how satisfactory they were, the interest, dividends and rents outstanding in the balance sheet, amounting to £95,028, had all been received with the exception of £3,200.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

There was sufficient margin over the valuation of the liabilities to indicate that, after writing off the depreciation, bonuses at the same rates as those declared at the quinquennium could be made out of surplus, retaining all the strength of the 2½ per cent. valuation on the society's whole life and endowment assurance contracts. To make sure of this a valuation of the whole of the society's liabilities was made as at December 31st last, which confirmed the strong financial position in which the society found itself. In arriving at this conclusion no account had been taken of the balance of the favourable exchange over unfavourable exchange, which ran to over £400,000.

The strength of the society was undoubted. The stability and success of a mutual life insurance society must always be based upon carefully selected membership, the sound investment of its funds, economic management, coupled with good interest earnings. It would be abundantly clear that, in the case of the Norwich Union Life, these four factors were undoubtedly present—all proposals made by new entrants were scrupulously supervised by their medical directors; a committee of the board met every week to investigate and deal with new investments. The interest rate, at £4 19s. per cent., after allowing for the write-off, gave a margin of £2 9s. over the valuation rate, and was an important aid in the maintenance of bonuses. Here then they had a combination ensuring the stability of this great office, and, therefore, its policyholders could look forward to the future with the utmost confidence.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

PROFITS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

The 134th annual meeting of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, Limited, was held, on Monday, April 11, at Norwich.

Mr Michael Falcon (the chairman) said that the operations of the society in 1931 had been carried on under conditions which were certainly the most difficult which any of those present could remember. The fall in value of basic commodities abroad, and the diminution of export trade from home continued, while the financial position in many of the countries where they did business reached a crisis, from which, even at the present time, there was little sign of recovery. He therefore thought he was justified in feeling some pride that the trading operations of the society again showed a profit in all departments, and the volume of business was only slightly diminished.

The fire premium income, at £2,005,679, was almost exactly £70,000 less than in the previous year. The continued trade depression and fall in prices in the United States had caused a further loss of income there, and generally in the overseas field conditions had operated in the same direction, accentuated by the depreciated currency value in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere, but their English business was maintained at almost exactly the same figure as last year. Losses had been heavier abroad, but the experience at home had been quite good. The profit realised was £68,733, which was 3.43 per cent., as compared with 3.19 per cent. in the previous year, and might be regarded as not unsatisfactory in the existing circumstances.

ACCIDENT AND GENERAL ACCOUNT.

The premium income in the accident and general account was £1,823,362, which was £48,000 less than in 1930, the shrinkage being chiefly a ccounted for by a diminution in the business of the Norwich Union Indemnity Company, their United States subsidiary. At home they had a very satisfactory increase and the results had been good. The outcome of the whole account was that they were able to transfer £105,652 to profit and loss, which was 5.79 per cent., as against 3.3 per cent. last year.

In the marine account the improvement referred to in the previous two years continued, and they were able to transfer £15,000 to profit and loss after closing the year 1930. This left the marine fund at £200,574, which materially exceeded all expected liabilities, and was 103.32 per cent. of the year's income of £194,124. There was an increase of some £24,000 in the premiums.

The transfers from the revenue account totalled £189,385, and provision had been made for a dividend at the same rate as in the previous year, namely, £6 per share, less income tax. In previous years the position would have been that they would have had a substantial sum either to add to the carry forward, or to dispose of as an addition to their funds. However, this was not the case, as the directors had decided to deal with the investments in the balance sheet by what they believed to be a thoroughly sound method, under which, if conditions did not improve, there would be no leeway to make up, but, if they did, the benefit would be reaped. The directors were accordingly writing off £379,974 as decreased value of investments, and, to enable them to do this, they had transferred the contingency fund of £100,000 and taken £200,000 from the general reserve, their Stock Exchange securities then standing in the balance sheet, as certified by the auditors, at or under market value at December 31st last. It would be realised that there had already been a substantial amount of appreciation since that date, owing to the betterment in quotations.

THE OUTLOOK.

In spite of the difficulties which had surrounded them, the directors had continued to look hopefully to the future. They had established the society in one or two countries in which it had not been previously represented, and had lost no opportunity of strengthening the organisation all round, so that they might not be left behind when the forward movement took place.

Insurance would continue to be a necessity in connection with almost every class of undertaking, both private and commercial. The risks of fire and accident on land and sea would always be with us, and security against their results must be available. British insurance companies were international in their activities, strong financially, and with vast experience, ready and willing to assist in this recovery, and they all looked forward to seeing the Norwich Union well to the fore in the future, as it had been in the past.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a dividend was declared in respect of the year 1931 of £6 per share, less income tax, payable by equal half-yearly instalments on May 2nd and November 1st next.

BRITISH ENKA ARTIFICIAL SILK COMPANY, LIMITED.

SMALL BUT ENCOURAGING WORKING PROFIT.

CAPACITY OF WORKS INCREASED.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of British Enka Artificial Silk Company, Limited, was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

Mr C. T. Potts presided, and, in the course of his remarks, said: We made in the past year a small but encouraging working profit. It amounts to £34,546, and compares with a loss of £72,139 in the previous year. The improvement is, therefore, £106,685, a remarkable and interesting turn in our affairs when you bear in mind that it occurred in a year of great depression in trade, at a time when some companies engaged in the industry have shown a falling off in profit and when we had to contend with an average level of selling prices lower than in the preceding year. This substantial progress has been possible through the steady improvement of manufacturing methods and a revision of our marketing organisation.

This moderate working profit is wiped out and converted into a net loss of £78,278 for the year, as a consequence of debenture interest and head office expenses costing £19,226 and provision for plant depreciation and the reserve for unrealised loss on exchange absorbing £95,599. It is of interest to note that we should not have shown any net loss for the year had the general level of prices remained stable at the average of the preceding year.

In the early months of the year we found business rather dull. Then demand began to improve and stocks decreased. With the improving demand, selling prices tended to be slightly harder. On this country abandoning the gold standard in September last, demand increased rapidly, but our plant was already being worked to capacity and our output had been sold in advance.

TRADE CONDITIONS

The trade improvement is confined in the main to the home market. Thus, while yarn production for the first two months of this year was over 70 per cent. higher than for the same period in 1931, exports show a comparative rise of only about 6 per cent. The conditions in the rest of the world are showing no signs of amelioration; indeed, they seem to be getting rather worse than better. We cannot close our eyes to the fact that the position in this country is delicate, for one cannot depend upon a permanent revival in trade unless and until measures are taken internationally to remove the serious obstacles standing in the way of a world industrial revival.

We naturally constantly review our position in the rayon industry. We are the second largest producer of viscose rayon in this country. Nevertheless, our productive capacity is far below that of the biggest yarn manufacturer, and as a consequence we have little or no influence on the fixing of selling prices. In fact, we have to be prepared to market our yarn at whatever level the leaders choose to sell. However, our brands are now well known, and we have had in the past year no difficulty in securing full trade prices. Should the position in this regard at any time become difficult, I am sure we should not attempt to cut prices unless compelled by undue pressure to do so, as we do not believe in creating price instability. It is bad for consumer and producer alike. Naturally, we should like to see higher prices, but we have reason to assume that these will not be raised by those in a position to do so.

COST PROBLEMS.

Our ability to earn profit depends upon price, quality, cost and quantity. Price is in effect fixed for us. Our yarns sell at full prices, and that is sufficient indication as to the quality of our production. There remain the problems of cost and quantity. Now, if we can only produce at a fair competitive cost, price must in the long run show a proper profit margin. Our problem, therefore, is largely one of reduction of cost. Having arrived at what we believe to be the probable production cost of competitors, we are led to the conclusion that the capacity of our works has been somewhat too small to be comfortable under present conditions, where the industry is disposing of its yarn at prices which leave but a small margin even to those best placed to earn profit. We were, therefore, glad of a recent opportunity to purchase a number of spinning machines and other equipment from a company that had gone into liquidation. The plant thus purchased was exceedingly cheap, unused, of the same type as our original installation, and, if anything, it is somewhat more up-to-date in design. The installation of this plant is practically complete, and it is gradually coming into operation. This enlargement, while hardly adequate, should help us in reducing our costs considerably.

In conclusion, I think we can say we have reached the stage where we can claim to be aboard a good ship, and when fair weather comes we shall sail forth, I hope, on a prosperous voyage. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were adopted.

UNITED KINGDOM PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

LORD REVELSTOKE'S ADDRESS.

A RECORD YEAR.

THE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.

The annual meeting of the members of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution was held, on Wednesday, April 13, at Southern House, Cannon Street Station, London, E.C.

The Right Hon. Lord Revelstoke (chairman of the Institution) presided.

RECORD NEW BUSINESS.

The Chairman, in presenting the report and moving the adoption of the balance sheet, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—The year 1931 has been a satisfactory one, both in regard to the number and the amount of new assurances effected, and while a large volume of new business is not necessarily a criterion of prosperity, it is undoubted evidence of the efficiency with which our Institution's affairs are being conducted, and is particularly satisfactory when it is borne in mind that this large new business has been secured at a low ratio of expense. The number of new policies issued was 5,343, assuring a net sum of £3,503,351, on which the annual premiums payable amount to £104,293. In respect of each item named, these figures surpass any previously recorded in the history of our Institution.

You will be interested in noting that of the amount paid in claims by death during the year, bonus additions accounted for £183,131, which is 44 per cent. of the sums assured under with-profit policies. In 146 cases the amount payable was more than double the original sum assured, while in 25 cases it was more than two-and-a-half times the original sum assured.

Our working expenses continue to be light; notwithstanding the large volume of new business the ratio of expenses to premium income was only 13.5 per cent., or 8.3 per cent. of our total income.

INVESTMENTS.

You will see in the report before you a reference to the depreciation which took place last year in the market value of our assets. Your Institution has naturally not been exempt from the vicissitudes which have affected all holders of Stock Exchange investments, but you will be glad to know that the depreciation with which we started this year has, to-day, been very materially reduced.

In accordance with the usual practice, no adjustment has been made in our book values, but on December 31, 1932, when our triennial valuation is due to take place, any depreciation which may then exist will, of course, be given its full effect in the balance sheet.

On the results of that valuation, of course, will depend the decision which we shall arrive at in regard to our bonus distribution, and on that head I feel sure that I shall have your approval if I refrain from anything in the nature of an explicit prophecy. Although our domestic outlook may be described as not unpromising, the international situation, about which I shall say a few words presently, contains so many elements of uncertainty that it would be wiser not to attempt any definite forecast.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS.

The Stock Exchange barometer, as you know, was unfavourable to valuations made at the end of last year. Chiefly as a consequence of improved monetry conditions it is, to-day, much more favourable. Bank rate has been lowered; there has been a flow of money into Government securities and a notable demand for first-class investments. Although this movement shows that capital is still timid, it also shows, viewed in conjunction with the balancing of the National Budget and the steady purchasing power of the pound sterling, that confidence in Great Britain is growing. A year ago, speaking in this room, I expressed the opinion that British enterprise and British craftsmanship would triumph, in time, over the difficulties which beset them, and that this country would emerge, perhaps sooner and better equipped than others, from the fiery ordeal which had then lasted ten years. In the interval, we have found ourselves forced to suspend payment in gold equivalents to our short-term creditors, and by so doing it is true that, for the time being, we renounced the financial leadership of the world. But no one has taken our place, and provided we concentrate our aim upon efficiency and can keep our public expenditure under control, there is, to my mind, no reason why this country of ours should not, whenever international trade revives, take the place that belongs to it in the front rank. Subject to these reservations, there is ground for cautious optimism at home.

NECESSITY FOR LOWERING TARIFF WALLS.

The Chairman then proceeded to review the foreign situation, which, he suggested, presented many features of difficulty and distress. Disregard of economic law had involved the whole world in a monetary deadlock which was slowly strangling trade. A solution of the reparations problem was earnestly desired, and the obvious way of bringing this about was by lowering the tariff walls which were obstructing international intercourse. While, in theory, this view was generally accepted, the prevailing nationalism prevented it from being put into practice, and the prolonged halt in trade was subjecting the fabric of capitalism to very severe strain. We could only hope that the statesmen in whose hands the future lay would be able to devise plans, without undue delay, which would bring relief to a suffering world.

The resolution was seconded by Mr E. H. Illingworth, and carried unanimously.

OOREGUM GOLD MINING COMPANY OF INDIA, LIMITED.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India, Limited, was held, on the 13th instant, at Southern House, London, E.C.

The Hon. Lionel Holland (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that when they met last year to review the working results of the preceding twelve months, the proved to have been the most disappointing and least profitable in the history of the Ooregum Mine since it first started serious mining operations. He was afraid, he said, that the story he had to put before the shareholders that day showed no improvement upon that of 1930, except in one particular. Their revenue for the twelve months and the profit realised were something better than for 1930, and permitted, besides paying the full fixed dividend upon the preference shares, the distribution of a small dividend on the ordinary share capital. That improvement, however, was due not to any increase in the tonnage mined, nor in the grade of ore treated, but to the company's having enjoyed for the last four months of its financial year a premium upon its gold output—their gold fetching approximately the price gold commanded in London, less insurance and freight charges.

The tonnage mined and crushed—135,095 tons—was less by 8,666 tons than the tonnage crushed in 1930. The ore mined again was of slightly lower grade. The return from the mined ore last year was 49,235 oz. of fine gold—over 4,200 oz. below the 1930 return. The tonnage, however, put through the dump retreatment plant was substantially higher—260,905 tons, over 35,000 more than in 1930—and a return of more than 13,800 oz. from this and other sources reduced to just over 600 oz. the total shrinkage as compared with the previous year. That better results were not obtained was due on the present occasion not so much to less favourable development results as to the lowering of grade and reduction in tonnage following upon the rock bursts from which the property had suffered.

The output of gold realised £285,111, after deducting royalty and refining charges, as compared with £255,622 for 1930. The premium represented over £30,000 of last year's total. They were writing down their mining rights by £8,000, and after satisfying other charges there was a profit balance of £34,724, and it was proposed to pay a dividend of 3d. a share on the ordinary shares and 3d. a share, in addition to the fixed dividend, on the preferred shares. The financial position of the company had not been impaired, the readily realisable assets exceeding the liabilities by over £148,000.

The reserves of payable ore now stood at something over 174,000 tons, a drop of 41,453 tons. Development during the year only brought into reserves some 16,000 tons of new ore; and over 12,000 tons of the old reserves had to be written off, as disturbances had rendered these blocks irrecoverable, at any rate for the present. Until the mining position had been re-established, it would not be wise to multiply the sloping areas, and it might be advisable to keep the monthly output during the current year below last year's average; but the company should get the benefit throughout the year, and not only for four months as last year, of the gold premium. While it was most probable that the premium on gold would not rule so high as during the final quarter of last year, it was not likely to be materially reduced before the termination of the current financial year, and unless the mine suffered from renewed disturbances, or unless the gold premium was much reduced, the coming 12 months should [illegible] financial results than those for the year under review.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BANK OF ATHENS.

GREECE AND THE CRISIS.

The directors' report for 1931 may be summarised as follows:

The break in World economic stability culminated during the year under review in an unprecedented crisis in all spheres, economic, financial and monetary, and Greece has felt its effects as acutely as any other country.

The slump in raw materials and agricultural products has particularly affected, of course, the tobacco and currant industries, so important to Greece. Crops have been, and are being sold with very great difficulty, possibilities of exporting are declining more and more, and decreased purchasing power reflects itself in the increase of unsold goods held by manufacturers and importers. Purchasing power has also been reduced for very many, because of the very considerable losses due to the depreciation of their sterling holdings.

Such conditions could not but have a serious effect on banking operations, as the changes in the balance sheet as at December 31st last show.

LIQUID CASH POSITION.

The different items of this balance sheet all give testimony to a constant care to maintain a liquid cash position, and the board has given further proof of its wise policy by writing-down the bank's investments (a detailed list of which, as well as of its premises and other properties, together with a statement of its position in foreign currencies, is published with the Report) to London prices of December 31st (with the £ valued at 270 only) or Athens prices of September 18th (since when the Athens bourse has remained closed), less 20 per cent., for securities quoted only there; this has involved taking Drs. 77,000,000 from reserve, reducing the latter to Drs. 149,200,000 (as against a paid-up capital of Drs. 100,800,000).

REDUCED EXPENSES.

The "general expenses," which were reduced by Drs. 10,917,000 last year, show a further reduction of Drs. 12,054,000, thanks to the vigilance and loyalty of the staff. In addition, the board has again renounced one-fifth of its statutory fees. A final dividend of 15 per cent., making a total of 20 per cent., leaves a carry forward (after provision for taxes, fees, etc., pensions and charity) increased to Drs. 5,738,311.

PAQUIN, LIMITED.

COMPANY'S PRESTIGE WELL MAINTAINED.

The thirty-fifth annual general meeting of Paquin, Limited, was held, on the 12th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Sir Harry K. Newton, Bart. (the chairman), said he was sure that the shareholders must have experienced a feeling of considerable satisfaction with the manner in which the company had emerged from the past year. It was unnecessary for him to enlarge on the difficulties which had beset such a business as this during a period of almost unparalleled depression in every part of the world. The name of Paquin had shed none of its lustre in the gloomy months through which they had travelled, but, on the contrary, had gained added distinction, and it was their policy and intention to maintain in every way the reputation and prestige of the house.

The net profit was £42,929, or only some £4,800 less than in the previous year, there having been a total reduction under the heading of taxation of £25,598. He hoped there were good grounds for believing that the rate of English income tax would be reduced in the Chancellor's Budget statement next week, and French taxation payable by the company would show a reduction in consequence of the smaller dividend now being paid, so that he thought they might again look forward with confidence to some relief in their accounts for the current year. The directors recommended a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, placing £5,000 to reserve. One moiety of the £13,554 remaining was carried forward to the credit of ordinary shareholders, and the other moiety was added to the general carry-forward, which was increased by £6,777 to £33,499, subject to the rate of income tax deducted from the dividend on the ordinary shares.

The results of the current year must depend on the extent to which the company's clientèle found itself in a position to indulge its natural taste for the best clothes that the world had to offer. The effect of a continuing crisis, however, was cumulative. The longer it lasted the more severely it must affect such a business as this, and for that reason they were already feeling it more acutely still this year. He would only repeat that the prestige and reputation of the house would be fully maintained, so that when the good times came again they might receive an ever-increasing share of the custom of all women who had the supreme wisdom to desire to look and feel their best.

The report was unanimously adopted.

LONDON COUNTY FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES, LIMITED.

POSITION WELL MAINTAINED—SATISFACTORY RE-LETTINGS.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of the London County Freehold and Leasehold Properties was held, on the 12th instant, at the registered office of the company, 114-116 Park Street, London, Mr A. C. Bourner, F.C.A. (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the directors had had a difficult period to deal with, with many changes in tenants and unusual empties in all classes of flats, yet the final result made a good showing.

They had only expanded in the year under review by a very moderate amount of purchases of additional properties, the prices of most of those offered to them being unsatisfactory, but their recent purchases had proved to be very advantageous; none had so far produced less than their estimated annual income, and during the past year almost everyone of their properties had shown some increase on re-letting, in some cases very substantial increases indeed.

The great majority of their flat rentals averaged less than £200 a year, 1,393 producing under £100 a year, and 2,276 under £200 a year. The board felt, therefore, that as the rents varied from £60 upwards, they were in a most favourable position to supply the demand for reasonably rented flat premises. The company possessed 164 entirely distinct buildings within a few miles of Charing Cross, the majority being in Paddington, St. Marylebone, Kensington, Westminster, Fulham, Hammersmith, Chelsea and Barnes, all which had been carefully selected to produce satisfactory results, alike from the point of appearance, amenities and income. A brochure issued by the company showed the class of property it owned.

The eventual loss of capital invested in a wasting security—such as leaseholds—was provided for by an annual charge to revenue over the period of the leases as a sinking fund for leasehold amortisation. Therefore it would be seen that variations in value were ultimately not of consequence. The important feature with them was that there should be reasonable stability of income; the board's aim was to maintain their properties in so satisfactory a condition that that would be ensured.

The dividends paid on the share capital of the subsidiary companies were the same as paid last year, and £5,010 was added to that carry-forward; the excellence of the investments was this year again fully established. One of their subsidiaries owned most valuable properties in Gloucester Place, W.1, known as Bickenhall Mansions, and Montagu Mansions, Baker Street. When the subsidiary company owning these properties was acquired the board knew that they were in an unattractive condition, and in consequence rents were on the low side and the reversions to improved rents were valuable. They had made the interior of the premises very attractive, and had installed every modern amenity, with the result that the present rents exceeded those of three years ago by no less than £5,000 per annum, and they anticipated considerable further increases as existing tenancies expired. Out of 175 flats there were now only three just vacated, and they hoped for a continuance of, if not an improvement in, the results in the future.

The total rent roll of the company, including subsidiary companies, now amounted to £835,091, but their income for the year had been lessened by additional vacancies representing over £20,000 in rentals. These additional voids had, however, been substantially offset by increased rents of re-letting, and even if the larger losses from empties continued for a time, they anticipated obtaining for the current year increased rentals on re-letting which, with further income from additional purchases, gave some indication that the net result should continue to be satisfactory. It was of great interest to note that the company's medium-sized flats in most cases this year had produced higher rents upon re-letting and that the shop and office rentals had been well maintained. The fact that in such a period of disturbance the company's vacant premises were only about one in twenty, augured well for the future when prosperity returned. The board's policy was to maintain a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, and only to add a bonus after providing out of the year's revenue for the proportional repayment of debentures and loans. The revenue balance sheet enabled that to be done again this year, and the board therefore recommended a repetition of last year's bonus of 1 per cent.

The redemption of loans and provision for wasting assets was secured by the allocation, generally annually, of a sum of money which would accumulate at compound interest in a given number of years to the amount required. Sinking funds and fixed redemption dates were of advantage both to lender and borrower, and were an essential element for the protection of the investor. The number of new flat erections in London during last year proved the demand for that form of residence, but the favourable rents charged by the company for larger and better accommodation made their position exceedingly strong.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

TELEPHONE PROPERTIES, LIMITED.

AUSPICIOUS FIRST RESULTS.

NOTABLE ADVANCES IN TELEPHONY.

SIR ALEXANDER ROGER'S STATEMENT.

The first ordinary general meeting of Telephone Properties, Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at the Incorporated Accountants' Hall, Victoria Embankment, London, Sir Alexander Roger, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr F. Hollyer) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—In accordance with practice I assume you will take the accounts as read. Those accounts, now submitted, are in respect of five monthly only, that is from August 4, 1931, the date of incorporation of the company, to December 31st last.

I am pleased to report that the results show a net revenue of £29,809, and, as stated in the directors' report, £3,936 has been appropriated in writing off the whole of the preliminary expenses, £5,479 in payment of a preference share dividend of 4 per cent. for the six months ended December 31, 1931, and the payment of a dividend of 4 per cent., less income tax, on the ordinary shares, which is at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, will absorb £12,328, leaving a balance of £8,066 to be carried forward. I think you will agree it is very satisfactory that your directors are able to recommend the maintenance of the same rate of dividend on the increased capital.

You will remember that following the creation of the Compania Anonima Nacional Telefonos de Venezuela the Venezuelan assets were vested in that company in exchange for debentures and shares and by agreement dated August 6th, 1931, your company took over these investments from the Venezuela Telephone and Electrical Appliances Company, Limited, which was the predecessor of your company.

Issued share capital stands at £547,907 and includes the additional 136,975 £1 fully paid ordinary shares distributed when your shares in the old company were exchanged for shares in the present company. This distribution was made possible by the release of the accumulated reserves of the old company.

REDUCTION IN LIABILITIES.

Loans appear on both sides of the balance sheet and show a net position of £105,743 owing by the company, which compares with £458,179 at June 30, 1931—a reduction of £352,436. This substantial reduction was effected by the sale at par to Telephone and General Trust, Limited, of Bolivares 8,750,000 eight per cent. debentures of the Nacional Company, the sterling equivalent being £346,535, and the proceeds were applied in reducing the then large temporary loans made by that trust for expansion and the general purposes of the Nacional telephone system. As soon as practicable your directors intend to take suitable measures for further improving the loan position. Sundry creditors at £24,059 include £13,147 provision for income tax and approximately £6,000 in respect of reserves for contingencies and accrued expenses. You will note that investments and loans together represent £770,542, as against £1,116,338 at June 30th last, the decrease being largely accounted for by the sale of investments just explained to you. Your directors are of opinion that the value of the investments is in excess of the figure in the balance sheet. Cash at £26,888 compares with £49,014.

A RADIO TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The progress of the Nacional Company will be readily appreciated when I tell you that at the close of the past three years, namely, 1929, 1930 and 1931, the number of telephone stations was 14,144, 16,057 and 17,077 respectively. The increase for 1931 is equivalent to a rate of 6·4 per cent., which can be regarded as exceptionally good when remembering the difficulties of the year.

The Nacional Company, whose system is now 80 per cent. automatic, is steadily equipping itself to form part of any international telephone system with complete facilities for rapid communication throughout the world, and I learn that arrangements are almost completed for the establishment of a radio service between Venezuela and Europe via the United States. Further expansion in the wireless communication field should follow as a natural corollary. The inauguration of wireless links, the latest development of the scientific art of telephony, has assumed an importance which is world-wide, and the entry of the Nacional Company into this field of communication should prove of great benefit to the international relationships of the Venezuelan community.

At the back of the telephone instrument which the public use, it is seldom appreciated that there is a vast, complicated, scientific machine housed in special buildings, with veins and arteries of cables, wires, ducts and poles radiating in every direction, all

continually in the process of alteration and expansion to meet the demand for telephone extension, and for quicker and more reliable service. The modern telephone service never sleeps—it is expected to be at the command of the public day and night. A telephone company and its administration, if it is to be in the first rank, must at all times have at its disposal technique, research, and material of the latest type. This the Nacional Company is able to draw upon through its association with your company and, in turn, through our affiliated companies.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS.

I was recently in Venezuela for the first time while on a visit to South America and I was much impressed with our investment and the country generally. The depression has not been felt so acutely as in other countries. The Government has no external debt, while its internal indebtedness is in the neighbourhood of £1,000,000 only. Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, with a population of 135,000, is a fine city, situated 3,500 feet above sea-level and blessed with a wonderful climate; the town of Maracay, where the President resides, is a miniature Washington. Excellent roads have been built in all directions, whilst regular aeroplane facilities between the important towns and adjoining countries are available; the country is well governed and taxation is moderate. I think it is safe to say there remains a field for telephone development open to the Nacional Company of which. I am convinced, they will not be slow to take advantage.

You will be glad to note that Mr Wallis, who was resident director of the old Venezuela company, has joined our board, where his long experience will be of great value.

I now beg to move :—

"That the report and accounts, as submitted, be received and adopted, and that the dividend therein recommended be paid."

Mr Herbert Simmonds seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and the auditors having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff concluded the proceedings.

RIO TINTO COMPANY, LIMITED.

POSITION OF THE COPPER INDUSTRY.

The fifty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Rio Tinto Company, Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at Southern House, London.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, G.C.M.G. (the chairman), said that in their Spanish business the company had had to face many difficulties, the aftermath of the revolution. The situation had been made more difficult by the large sums in cash which the company had had to hand over to the taxgatherers, amounting in all countries to over £800,000 in gold—a sum eight times as great as their net profits for the year, and twenty times as great as the amount which they proposed should be distributed at this time to shareholders. This drain on their liquid resources at a time when the inward cash flow was reduced in volume had deprived them of the financial elasticity they had enjoyed for many years. He did not mean from this that they were nearing the end of their resources. They had no bank overdraft, and they had considerable internal reserves in the form of produce; their mines were in good shape and well written down; and their railway, pier, plants, machinery, &c., were all well maintained and in first-class shape. In short, they were ready to take advantage of a recovery in the markets for copper, iron and sulphur when it came.

Two years ago he ventured to utter a warning about the future of copper, and to lay some stress upon the possibility of a copper shortage within a few years. Those—and there were many—who urged that economic laws should be permitted to have unhampered play in the field of copper production, in other words that there should be a fight to a finish—which, of course, might have to come—could hardly have envisaged the devastation that would result or the ultimate effects when the world once more was ready to advance in civilisation and the application of power.

Suppose they had such a fight and that the United States did not put a high duty on imported copper, and suppose, further, that after a desperate struggle the Chilean, Canadian and Rhodesian mines and Rio Tinto were still alive, what then? A copper famine and soaring prices would result, and, in his view, in no circumstances to-day was a copper producers' war likely to lead to a lasting solution. He preferred so long as possible to lend his aid to keeping the industry together, to preventing any further increase of production capacity, and so to win through to a healthy industry capable of playing its part in the world without feverish attacks of high prices followed by price collapse.

The report and accounts were adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The total ordinary revenue for the nine days ended April 9, 1932, amounted to £19,586,000 against ordinary expenditure of £29,823,200. After allocating £690,300 to Sinking Fund and having allowed for a reduction in Exchequer Balances of £3,257,569, the operations for the week, as shown below, increased the National Debt by £7,670,000 to £7,590,220,000 :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Bank of England Advances ...	+ 5,500	Treasury Bills	— 5,879
Public Department Advances.	+ 15,400	National Savings Certificates...	— 1,700
Land Settlement Repayments.	+ 8	British Govt. Loans abroad...	— 5,659
	+20,908		—13,238

A complete analysis of the National Debt at March 31, 1932, was printed in the *Economist* of April 2, 1932.

REVENUE	Total Receipts into the Exchequer: 1st April, 1932, to 9th April, 1932.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer: 1st April, 1931, to 11th April, 1931.
ORDINARY REVENUE.	£	£
Inland Revenue—		
Income Tax	8,945,000	10,497,000
Surtax, including Arrears of Super-Tax	2,020,000	2,700,000
Estate, &c., Duties	1,640,000	1,870,000
Stamps	...	50,000
Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax....	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty	30,000	30,000
Total Inland Revenue	12,635,000	15,147,000
Customs and Excise—		
Customs	4,029,000	3,117,000
Excise	1,000,000	1,315,000
Total Customs and Excise	5,029,000	4,432,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	767,000	1,071,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	300,000	1,050,000
Crown Lands	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	854,068	2,845,908
Miscellaneous Receipts	919	154,307
Appropriation from Rating Relief Suspense Account...	...	...
Total Ordinary Revenue	19,585,987	24,700,215
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.		
Post Office	950,000	900,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund...	800,000	1,364,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	1,750,000	2,264,000
Total	21,335,987	26,964,215

EXPENDITURE	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments: 1st April, 1932, to 9th April, 1932.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments: 1st April, 1931, to 11th April, 1931
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	17,460,503	16,411,059
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	...	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	212,705	232,582
Total	17,673,208	16,643,641
Total Supply Services (excluding Post Office) ...	12,150,000	11,700,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	29,823,208	28,343,641
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.		
Post Office	950,000	900,000
Road Fund	800,000	1,364,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	1,750,000	2,264,000
Total Ordinary and Self-Balancing Expenditure	31,573,208	30,607,641
New Sinking Fund (1928)	690,318	1,003,226
Total (including New Sinking Fund)	32,263,526	31,610,867

The aggregate revenue and expenditure to April 9, 1932, is shown below :—

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1932-33, APRIL 1ST TO APRIL 9, 1932.

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Expenditure	29,823	Revenue	19,586
New Sinking Fund	690	Decrease in balances	3,258
		Net amount borrowed	7,669
	30,513		30,513

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Apr. 11, '31.	Mar. 31, '32.	Apr. 9, '32.	Movement 12 days ended Mar. 31, '32.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	5,500,000	+ 5,500,000
Advances by Public Departments	37,050,000	7,500,000	22,900,000	+15,400,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	558,760,000	604,455,000	598,560,000*	— 5,895,000
Total Floating Debt	595,810,000	611,955,000	626,960,000	+15,005,000

* Includes £13,800, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on April 8, 1932, and the total amount applied for was £76,220,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Saturday at £99 7s. 9d., about 88 per cent., and above in full. The amount allotted was £45,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months' Average Rate.
1932.	£	£	£ s. d.
March 18	45,000,000	74,005,000	2 1 2·17
March 24	45,000,000	60,315,000	1 16 11·39
April 1	45,000,000	61,860,000	2 3 3·73
April 8	45,000,000	76,220,000	2 8 4·75

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, April 13, 1932.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued :—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	356,753,055	Other Government Securities	223,293,702
In Banking Department	39,055,292	Other Securities	36,891,544
		Silver Coin	3,799,654
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	275,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	120,808,347
	£395,808,347		£395,808,347

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	55,385,906
Rest	3,099,286	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	12,258,974	Discounts and Advances £11,267,453	
Other Deposits—		Securities £34,833,853	
Bankers £78,446,795			46,101,306
Other Accounts £32,823,562		Notes	39,055,292
	111,270,357	Gold and Silver Coin	640,298
7-Day and other Bills	1,185		
	£141,182,802		£141,182,802

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt and Dividend Accounts.

Both Departments.	Amount, April 13, 1932.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	356,753,055	− 3,038,536	+ 2,389,551
Public deposits	12,258,974	+ 2,266,158	+ 3,886,750
Bankers' deposits	78,446,795	− 1,095,675	+ 17,216,333
Other deposits	32,823,562	− 820,195	− 2,306,991
Seven-day bills	1,185	+ 75	− 1,732
Total, outside liabilities	480,283,571	− 2,688,173	+ 21,183,911
Capital and rest	17,652,286	+ 1,357	− 12,707
Government debt and securities	289,694,708	− 6,817,964	+ 11,676,379
Discounts and advances	11,267,453	− 896,677	+ 2,891,499
Other securities	71,725,397	+ 5,018,222	+ 31,648,469
Silver coin in issue department	3,799,654	− 1,682	− 291,394
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	121,448,645	+ 11,285	− 24,753,749
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	39,695,590	+ 3,049,821	− 12,143,300
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only (" proportion ")	32⅛%	+ 2⅜%	− 17¼%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes (" reserve ratio ")	25 1/16%	+ ⅛%	− 6⅛%

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Issue Department.		Banking Department.			Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
	Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.		
1932.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Mar. 9	395,808	354,475	7,836	81,963	33,182	NR	5
16	395,805	353,714	9,477	73,084	32,433	NR	4
23	395,807	358,836	10,439	73,449	32,970	NR	3½
30	395,807	360,539	27,231	54,566	34,381	NR	3½
April 6	395,807	360,792	9,983	78,542	33,644	NR	3½
13	395,808	356,753	12,259	78,447	32,824	NR	3½

(000's omitted.)

Date.	Issue Department.		Both Depts.	Banking Department.				
	Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Govt. Securities.	Discounts & Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1931.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Mar. 9	260,838	11,169	121,466	34⅜	84,371	11,546	44,939	41,899	31
16	257,963	13,231	121,461	25⅜	60,326	11,380	32,797	42,747	37
23	262,819	13,500	121,419	26½	57,616	11,373	48,644	37,676	30
30	262,373	13,316	121,432	26½	38,696	11,726	51,687	35,935	30
April 6	246,602	28,797	121,437	25⅜	61,111	12,164	40,210	35,646	29
13	234,260	36,698	121,449	25⅛	56,386	11,267	34,134	39,695	32

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted.)

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1932.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to March 30	6,325,441	414,713	680,688	7,420,841
Week ended April 6	629,459	39,354	67,788	736,601
Week ended April 13	499,442	30,853	51,566	581,861
Total to date, 1932	7,454,342	484,939	800,032	8,739,313
Total to date, 1931	10,309,267	515,260	813,633	11,637,560
Increase or decrease in 1932	− 2,854,925	− 30,321	− 13,601	− 2,898,247
	= 27·6%	= 5·9%	= 1·8%	= 24·9%
Total for year 1931	31,815,808	1,667,852	2,752,309	36,235,969
Total for year 1930	38,782,577	1,812,146	3,063,633	43,658,356
Increase or decrease in 1931	− 6,966,769	− 144,294	− 311,423	− 7,422,486
	= 17·9%	= 7·9%	= 7·1%	= 17·0%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

(000's omitted.)

	Week ended April 9.		Month of March.			Aggregate Totals, January 1 to April 9.	
	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.	Inc. or Dec.	1931.	1932.
No. of working days			26	25			
	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	1,224	2,022	9,540	9,039	− 5·2	33,909	31,783
BRADFORD	680	702	3,274	3,395	+ 3·6	11,234	11,264
BRISTOL	780	1,761	6,035	4,937	− 18·1	16,687	16,484
DUBLIN	5,456	6,269	...	...	...	71,308	70,869
HULL	726	735	3,065	3,046	− 0·6	11,157	11,094
LEEDS	778	636	3,459	3,769	+ 8·9	13,483	12,933
LEICESTER	436	513	2,919	3,081	+ 5·5	9,739	10,627
LIVERPOOL	4,511	5,520	24,724	25,646	+ 3·7	79,166	79,301
MANCHESTER	7,259	9,372	41,875	42,473	+ 1·4	137,267	141,341
NEWCASTLE	893	1,372	6,020	5,698	− 5·3	19,983	18,522
NOTTINGHAM	317	419	1,915	1,856	− 3·0	6,754	6,966
SHEFFIELD	499	743	3,507	3,329	− 5·0	12,307	11,447
Total	23,559	37,064	106,333	106,269	− 0·06	422,979	429,697

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Canadian Banks appeared in the *Economist* of March 26: National Bank of Egypt and Japan in April 2: Denmark, Danzig, Chile, Russia, and Bank for International Settlements in April 9.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Apr. 16, 1931.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
RESOURCES.					
Total gold reserve	3,141,860	3,007,490	3,017,760	3,032,300	3,018,310
Total bills discounted	132,000	210,900	633,250	635,270	638,600
Bills bought in open market	131,480	665,580	66,360	57,950	51,810
Total U.S. Govt. securities	598,630	81,700	871,620	885,010	905,020
Total bills and securities	862,120	747,280	1,578,150	1,582,540	1,669,910
Total resources	4,946,710	835,000	5,338,640	5,380,030	5,509,350
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,515,720	1,589,270	2,546,270	2,561,570	2,537,070
Deposits—Member bank—reserve account	2,356,410	5,342,000	1,911,500	1,952,270	2,010,900
Total deposits	2,406,190	2,572,820	2,018,640	2,020,160	2,123,960
Capital paid in and surplus	443,370	1,910,600	415,040	414,980	414,980
Total liabilities	4,946,710	5,342,000	5,338,640	5,380,030	5,509,350
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	84·6%	70·6%	70·9%	70·8%	69·4%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Apr. 16, 1931.	Mar. 24, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
Total gold reserves	1,050,690	935,000	971,930	957,140	935,530
Total bills discounted	26,140	132,860	138,180	131,250	123,180
Bills bought in open market	24,550	20,700	21,080	16,280	13,870
Total U.S. Govt. securities	182,710	344,460	364,900	385,340	416,660
Total bills and securities	233,410	502,350	529,440	535,730	595,370
Deposits—Member bank—reserve account	974,560	821,860	849,990	867,170	894,180
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	85·3%	70·4%	69·7%	69·1%	66·4%

FEDERAL RESERVE MEMBER BANKS.

In $'s (000,000's omitted).

	Mar. 25, 1931.	Feb. 24, 1932.	Mar. 2, 1932.	Mar. 9, 1932.	Mar. 16, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.
Loans	15,470	12,609	12,583	12,436	12,388	12,364
Investments	7,576	6,997	6,935	6,869	7,200	7,349
Demand deposits	13,690	11,001	11,003	10,070	10,992	10,943
Time deposits	7,278	5,685	5,700	5,714	5,687	5,675
Due from banks	1,866	874	912	872	972	917
Due to banks	3,912	2,262	2,386	2,340	2,444	2,376
Federal reserve borrowings	35	478	474	397	338	334

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	Mar. 20, 1931.	Feb. 19, 1932.	Feb. 26, 1932.	Mar. 4, 1932.	Mar. 11, 1932.	Mar. 18, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion	6,410	7,381	7,535	6,831	6,864	6,868
Subsidiary coin	387	458	463	460	469	467
Bills discounted: Domestic and Union Gov. Treas. Bills	295	1,824	3,492	4,850	4,088	3,670
Bills discounted: Foreign	6,495	63	73	80	60	66
Investments	1,778	1,043	1,133	1,321	1,378	1,307
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	720	802	802	802	802	802
Notes in circulation	6,711	6,610	7,710	7,781	7,154	7,113
Government deposits	1,971	1,561	1,383	900	1,134	1,097
Bankers' deposits	4,435	4,369	4,186	4,889	4,868	4,867
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	49·1%	50·7%	56·1%	50·9%	50·9%	50·7%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

	Mar. 20, 1931.	Feb. 19, 1932.	Feb. 26, 1932.	Mar. 4, 1932.	Mar. 11, 1932.	Mar. 18, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Total securities	39,80,01	18,32,95	19,29,11	17,07,68	17,59,80	17,68,57
Loans	11,78,76	9,30,67	9,35,49	9,89,59	9,92,68	9,69,91
Cash credits	27,63,52	24,59,93	24,63,27	24,36,89	24,41,00	24,49,48
Inland bills	6,00,02	6,31,43	6,22,59	6,30,38	6,68,92	6,49,03
Foreign bills	31,68	28,38	28,24	33,67	36,54	36,87
Dead stock	2,75,37	2,68,85	2,68,84	2,68,86	2,68,96	2,69,09
Bal. with other banks	1,03,73	46,43	44,60	56,73	33,93	49,31
Cash	10,01,38	9,01,72	9,86,62	8,39,94	8,37,43	9,26,24
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,40,00	5,00,00	5,00,00	5,00,00	5,00,00	5,00,00
Total deposits	77,90,79	69,37,55	69,10,85	68,50,81	68,67,73	68,79,00
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	5,002	1,527	1,660	1,694	1,858	1,942
Advances in London	4,380	1,294	1,396	1,396	1,688	1,684
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	780	350	337	427	256	372

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Apr. 9, 1931.	Mar. 18, 1932.	Mar. 25, 1932.	Apr. 1, 1932.	Apr. 8, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold	56,107,297	76,508,642	76,831,523	76,785,995	76,909,171
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	6,911,797	3,923,097	3,848,636	4,347,874	4,230,399
Bills, &c.	19,397,913	8,304,857	8,783,615	3,184,442	...
Home bills	5,534,201	4,339,620	4,820,334	3,746,757	...
Advances against sec.					
To the State	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000
Other advances	2,926,757	2,771,489	2,715,643	2,858,413	2,807,043
Negotiable Bonds, Sinking Fund Dept.	5,082,397	6,880,527	6,880,527	6,880,527	6,880,527
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	4,292,948	5,279,598	5,170,794	5,831,828	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	78,707,503	81,929,466	81,782,044	83,438,128	82,523,540
Public deposits	11,074,039	3,823,039	3,526,377	3,338,253	3,432,967
Private deposits	10,093,227	23,497,911	24,443,717	22,737,466	23,324,779
Other liabilities	3,578,641	2,446,414	2,498,934	2,321,989*	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks (000's omitted).

	Apr. 7, 1931.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.
ASSETS.				
Gold	2,343,644	877,088	878,650	878,742
Of which deposited abroad	207,638	76,623	80,465	92,922
Reserve in foreign currencies	165,605	142,188	141,819	141,708
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,023,860	3,219,323	3,317,855	3,176,374
Silver and other coin	143,228	208,696	139,063	175,964
Notes of other German banks	9,119	7,813	2,797	7,465
Advances	155,219	134,869	289,874	100,415
Investments	102,690	361,753	361,751	361,517
Other assets	519,832	824,454	902,635	855,489
LIABILITIES.				
Share capital	122,788	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserves	371,139	417,426	417,426	417,426
Notes in circulation	4,377,850	4,005,896	4,231,073	4,085,675
Other daily maturing obligations	332,848	491,453	577,688	370,263
Other liabilities	258,572	711,409	658,257	674,310
Cover of note circulation	57·4%	25·4%	24·1%	25·0%

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In belgas (000's omitted).

	Position, May 28, 1914.	Apr. 9, 1931.	Mar. 17, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	April 7, 1932.
ASSETS.	(b)					
Gold		1,440,185	2,511,069	2,512,209	2,514,120	2,520,019
Foreign bills and balances abroad	252,680 (Gold, foreign bills and silver)	911,900	...	...	...	...
Silver and other coin		4,465	48,876	49,709	50,260	49,695
Securities	697,000	730,373	970,844	966,062	964,830	955,742
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	3,256,193	3,615,768	3,600,637	3,663,678	3,680,464
Current accounts	112,125	154,089	107,463	127,844	131,011	155,916

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 13, 1931.	Mar. 21, 1932.	Mar. 28, 1932.	Apr. 4, 1932.	Apr. 11, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold	161,302	446,978	876,153	879,400	885,762	891,893
Silver	8,436	25,134	26,221	24,669	24,635	24,417
Home bills discounted		45,922	63,113	62,112	58,828	54,317
Foreign bills	231,894 (Home bills, foreign bills and loans)	212,175	84,349	84,410	84,410	84,410
Loans and advances in current acct.		87,059	94,642	97,235	96,678	94,815
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	308,638	837,522	967,038	983,399	997,020	976,981
Deposits	6,016	16,706	192,880	185,721	163,587	180,794

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 11, 1931.	Mar. 19, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.	Apr. 2, 1932.	Apr. 9, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold	22,971	118,730	163,600 (Gold and silver)	180,200 (Gold and silver)	151,600 (Gold and silver)	151,500 (Gold and silver)
Silver	25,766	47,350				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,887	113,600	108,400	104,800	106,108	111,400
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	139,032	247,347	227,200	224,800	225,600	230,400
Deposits and bills payable	11,389	36,969	32,700	38,800	32,100	32,000

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

	Mar. 31, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 20, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,310,[illegible]	5,628,400	5,626,400	5,626,900	5,627,900
Foreign credits and balances abroad	4,[illegible]	1,725,300	1,656,600	1,609,700	1,533,700
[illegible]	306,900	301,800	307,200	311,300	313,200
Gold deposited abroad due by State	1,772,800	1,772,800	1,772,800	1,772,800	1,772,800
[illegible]	[illegible]	4,627,900	4,632,900	4,634,000	4,617,800
[illegible]	[illegible]	1,12[illegible]	970,500	903,600	1,019,900
[illegible] Institute of Liquidation	926,200	[illegible]	1,620,600	1,600,600	1,613,100
[illegible]	1,161,900	1,360,600	1,370,100	1,370,500	1,371,300
LIABILITIES.					
[illegible]	[illegible]	13,93[illegible]	13,883,300	13,651,100	13,871,700
[illegible]	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,428,300	1,471,700	1,399,700
[illegible]	[illegible]	46·15%	46·61%	46·98%	46·99%

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 7, 1931.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold	171,176	642,796	2,438,598	2,438,586	2,438,607	2,438,611
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	—	313,683	108,507	104,146	108,105	110,123
Discounts	—	46,211	22,411	21,237	19,546	63,207
Advances	103,000	40,032	51,065	51,249	53,681	46,546
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	276,928	971,838	1,453,999	1,467,435	1,517,421	1,490,071
Deposits	33,750	158,360	1,184,610	1,167,478	1,122,764	1,160,390

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

	April 11, 1931.	Mar. 18, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.	April 2, 1932.	Apr. 9, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold reserve	239,929	205,697	205,696	205,685	205,698
Government securities—Swedish	3,358	3,730	3,730	3,730	3,720
" " foreign	69,609	—	...	...	—
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	84	94	94	94	94
Bills payable in Sweden†	152,804	405,074	418,384	479,152	461,609
" " abroad	89,910	1,690	1,689	1,677	1,672
Balance abroad	140,778	111,308	110,922	111,666	111,384
Advances made on Government securities and bonds†	37,497	38,763	33,806	42,894	37,082
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	509,558	523,748	526,843	596,970	532,773
Government deposits	187,613	152,896	148,316	156,952	162,946
Private deposits	10,491	56,080	67,631	52,890	86,332

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are not available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,409	118,100	118,100*	118,100
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	36,732	16,191	15,819	16,035
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	54,325	29,456	29,252	29,252
Discounts and loans	76,911	183,130	246,242	259,505	257,619
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	295,831	300,678	310,416	310,356
Deposits at sight	7,188	71,906	83,195	85,762	85,449

* In addition the Bank has at its free disposal abroad Kr. 37,159,000.

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

	Position, May 30, 1914	Apr. 4, 1931.	Mar. 12, 1932.	Mar. 19, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.	Apr. 2, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold	521,775	2,421,143	2,249,294	2,249,478	2,249,736	2,249,921
Silver	728,600	712,818	534,710	539,869	545,713	548,744
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,144,795	3,050,693	3,063,555	3,013,325	3,097,877
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,669,638	4,977,670	4,931,057	4,881,562	4,918,729
Deposits	477,500	784,632	1,009,372	1,023,958	1,016,864	1,011,368

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

	Feb. 10, 1932.	Feb. 17, 1932.	Feb. 24, 1932.	Mar. 2, 1932.	Mar. 9, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold	291,958	293,305	293,979	347,656	352,598
Balances abroad	703,573	700,226	656,061	660,009	648,267
Discounts	343,716	339,130	341,442	330,476	331,496
Government loans	1,058,029	1,058,029	1,058,029	1,058,029	1,058,029
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,962,233	1,928,480	1,917,052	1,951,987	1,927,921
Government deposits	117,177	121,681	105,642	91,095	91,538
Bankers' deposits	244,352	258,379	291,720	265,158	287,206
Other deposits	27,779	36,040	34,462	33,068	30,931

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

	April 7, 1931.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	April 7, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	214,366	179,416	179,416	179,416	179,416
Foreign exchange	138,795	69,535	63,137	60,174	57,958
Other foreign exchange†	499,611	115	115	115	115
Bills discounted	76,084	841,296	831,845	867,186	858,612
Govt. debt	96,102	95,643	95,643	95,643	95,643
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	10,803	10,803	10,803	10,803	10,803
Notes in circulation	930,392	949,415	910,918	1,008,577	946,124
Deposits	98,034	173,459	194,544	128,446	178,365

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő (000's omitted).

	Apr. 7, 1931.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	125,710	100,047	100,047	100,048	96,399
Drafts and notes	26,371	15,696	14,554	12,364	17,258
Silver coin and bullion	13,148	10,123	10,722	10,838	10,530
Inland bills, warrants and securities	236,490	377,396	365,538	407,175	401,446
Advances to Treasury	60,115	54,205	54,205	54,205	54,182
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	365,959	358,263	341,427	373,934	360,130
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	57,871	90,931	93,828	97,503	98,887

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

	Apr. 7, 1931.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 7, 1932.
ASSETS.					
Gold	1,542,067	1,643,674	1,643,023	1,642,861	1,642,640
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,160,066	843,060	816,133	784,094	785,560
Discounts and advances	182,939	1,160,129	964,574	1,432,050	1,295,934
State notes debt balance	3,356,895	3,064,620	3,059,514	3,059,255	3,056,196
Other assets	1,115,925	628,787	661,123	854,023	853,263
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,389,663	6,160,186	5,974,819	6,525,987	6,381,233
Check account balances	1,102,281	474,263	506,847	276,757	566,582
Other liabilities	355,037	249,248	226,130	230,888	216,207

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 22, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.	Apr. 8, 1932.
ASSETS.				
Cash reserve:—				
Gold at home and abroad	1,760,317	1,762,358	1,762,578	1,762,817
Foreign exchange	196,829	207,118	192,229	192,893
Other foreign exchange	86,826	86,390	83,908	83,906
Bills and advances against security	2,186,278	2,184,481	2,181,445	2,190,305
Government advances	1,802,395	1,802,678	1,802,746	1,802,987
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	4,803,714	4,750,986	4,823,612	4,833,521
Sight deposits	535,711	567,184	495,129	436,793

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. March, 1932.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Martins Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Aggregate.
Assets.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	34,736	1,506	2,623	33,271	7,083	37,614	2,985	24,623	26,800	2,785	174,026
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	7,518	486	907	7,662	1,967	8,506	175	7,667	7,677	789	43,354
Items in transit	...	...	...	2,904	849	...	...	...	...	...	3,753
Money at call and short notice	19,645	1,507	4,073	22,257	6,599	17,762	3,274	15,544	19,202	2,637	112,500
Bills discounted	41,555	2,400	864	40,493	5,230	56,943	2,108	31,170	35,024	1,002	216,789
Investments	58,072	3,957	5,706	45,987	17,544	42,554	15,696	34,325	50,574	7,470	281,885
Advances to customers and other accounts	177,347	8,428	12,265	173,085	34,221	198,807	16,088	138,534	129,761	13,538	902,074
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	7,136	449	1,995	35,375	4,229	14,965	14	6,796	25,870	1,888	98,717
Bank premises account	6,738	380	695	7,901	2,860	10,841	770	7,079	5,827	1,049	44,140
Investments in affiliated banks	6,690	...	...	5,278	...	7,294	...	2,514	2,992	...	24,768
	359,437	19,113	29,128	374,213	80,582	395,286	41,110	268,252	303,727	31,158	1,902,006
Ratio of cash to current, deposit and other accounts	10·64	9·03	10·36	10·54	10·22	10·60	8·00	10·09	10·26	10·47	10·38
Liabilities											
Capital paid up	15,858	1,000	1,060	15,810	4,160	14,248	1,500	9,480	9,320	1,875	74,311
Reserve fund	10,250	1,000	530	7,500	2,900	11,500	1,015	8,000	7,500	800	50,995
Current, deposit and other accounts	326,193	16,664	25,309	315,522	69,275	354,573	37,290	243,976	261,021	26,595	1,676,418
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	7,136	449	1,995	35,375	4,229	14,965	14	6,796	25,870	1,888	98,717
Notes in circulation	...	...	...	6	18	...	1,291	...	16	...	1,331
Reduction of bank premises account	...	...	234	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	234
	359,437	19,113	29,128	374,213	80,582	395,286	41,110	268,252	303,727	31,158	1,902,006

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

Assets.	Mar. 5, 1932.	Mar. 12, 1932.	Mar. 19, 1932.	Mar. 26, 1932.	Apr. 2, 1932.
Gold & gold exchange	9,717,124	9,720,305	9,836,481	9,753,902	9,746,406
Commercial bills	12,391,981	12,400,502	12,505,636	12,399,252	12,498,222
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,767,101	5,767,101	5,767,101	5,767,101	5,767,101
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	22,432,805	22,530,661	22,664,971	22,741,948	22,725,605
Other sight liabilities	4,559,946	4,417,641	4,626,910	4,337,657	4,314,321

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Gold and silver holdings	1,471,062	1,512,419	1,512,656	1,512,746	1,512,795
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	647,377	363,466	361,741	360,518	330,732
Discounts and advances	621,583	705,122	711,596	714,771	727,002
Advances to the Treasury	3,064,436	2,965,483	2,965,483	2,965,483	2,965,483
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,183,268	1,190,752	1,190,821	1,190,875	1,191,725
Bank notes in circulation	3,128,804	2,776,504	2,743,838	2,801,347	2,797,054
Sight liabilities	1,444,890	1,611,678	1,605,085	1,634,488	1,551,559
Deposits	266,564	236,447	236,231	236,163	236,787

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmae (000's omitted).

Assets.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Gold	498,631	869,380	831,354	777,591	715,949
Gold exchange	2,867,830	860,832	836,778	849,302	341,708
State Gold Bonds	...	...	...	...	607,930
Other foreign exchange	3,070	2,162	2,678	2,849	2,235
Bills discounted	146,061	147,312	151,632	308,330	313,027
Advances	156,285	733,601	744,023	844,299	902,014
Debt to the State	3,189,765	3,189,417	3,189,417	3,189,567	3,696,836
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	4,464,717	3,781,398	3,746,982	3,759,564	3,908,903
Deposits and current accounts	1,874,517	618,269	653,285	844,073	440,678
Foreign exchange liabilities	411,459	166,627	136,374	123,165	127,023

CENTRAL BANK OF TURKEY.—In £T (000's omitted).

	March 24, 1932.	March 31, 1932.
Liabilities.		
Gold coin and bullion	12,044	12,166
Other coin and notes	6,725	6,906
Cover to Supplementary Note Issue :—		
(a) Gold	1,057	1,057
(b) Foreign exchange	2,636	2,776
Free foreign exchange	1,397	1,126
Treasury bonds	156,949	156,949
Bills	24,706	24,706
Securities	7,667	7,665
Assets.		
Capital	15,000	15,000
Note Issue :—		
Ordinary	156,949	156,949
Supplementary	12,394	13,520
Sight liabilities	6,577	4,943

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

Assets.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Feb. 29, 1932.	Mar. 10, 1932.	Mar. 20, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Gold	562,886	606,468	608,403	608,451	573,518
Of which held abroad	77,396	119,733	121,585	121,585	134,880
Foreign currencies	381,221	175,473	164,094	160,983	191,944
Bills discounted	571,095	645,208	629,133	644,257	641,260
Loans against securities	97,615	131,307	128,821	129,342	135,468
Reserve fund securities	90,816	92,800	92,800	92,761	92,761
Liabilities.					
Share capital	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
Reserve funds	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000
Notes in circulation	1,260,511	1,150,974	1,111,721	1,076,486	1,110,538
Current accounts	218,989	191,354	196,039	237,909	168,139

* As from October 27, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May30,1914.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Gold	35,091	301,870	303,977	303,982	303,980
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	979,650	929,808	922,966	903,897
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	367,225	355,876	356,197	356,390
Discounts and loans	105,161	824,192	1,018,071	996,633	972,897
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,319,545	1,296,513	1,272,086	1,260,360
Deposits at notice	21,225	66,689	244,905	234,566	180,933

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

Assets.	Mar. 31, 1931.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
Gold coin and gold bullion	6,511	7,311	7,319	7,320	7,321
Net foreign exchange	17,551	13,628	14,072	14,315	14,320
Subsidiary Estonian coin	1,823	1,883	1,863	1,895	1,778
Home bills discounted	11,220	10,637	10,729	10,819	10,676
Loans and advances	16,352	11,124	11,103	12,423	13,189
Thereof loans to Government	5,000	2,500	2,500	3,900	3,900
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	35,658	33,409	33,114	35,009	34,889
Sight deposits and current accounts	17,394	12,939	13,586	12,773	13,839
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	45·36%	45·18%	46·81%	45·28%	45·13%

* Includes Ekr. 4,056,339·27 guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Apr. 6, 1931.	Mar. 7, 1932.	Mar. 14, 1932.	Mar. 21, 1932.	Mar. 28, 1932.	Apr. 4, 1932.
Gold bullion and coins	34,070	33,910	33,922	33,923	33,925	34,450
Silver coin	6,217	13,583	13,483	13,314	13,099	13,089
Balance abroad	31,873	12,994	13,516	13,991	13,626	12,679
Treas. notes and sm. change	11,760	14,721	15,123	14,640	14,527	15,288
Short term bills	83,118	75,106	74,787	74,778	74,767	75,286
Loans against securities	70,488	57,264	58,021	57,573	56,915	56,935
Other assets	15,131	21,778	22,365	22,998	23,769	23,695
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	47,130	39,170	38,943	38,983	39,151	39,394
Capital paid up	18,736	19,676	19,676	19,676	19,676	19,676
Reserve	4,362	4,739	4,739	4,739	4,739	4,739
Special reserve	3,809	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
Deposits	20,951	13,040	17,994	17,983	18,005	17,988
Current accounts	68,531	76,099	78,157	85,949	85,108	84,957
Government accounts	72,486	84,071	86,983	78,263	77,716	79,697
Other liabilities	7,361	10,939	11,394	10,685	11,008	11,009

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

	Mar. 31, 1931.	Jan. 31, 1932.	Feb. 15, 1932.	Feb. 28, 1932.	Mar. 15, 1932.	Mar. 31, 1932.
ASSETS.						
Gold	38,445	50,153	50,200	50,200	50,210	50,216
Silver and other coins	2,755 / 1,396	2,888 / 1,376	4,315	4,428	4,436	4,458
Foreign currency	70,586	28,872	27,315	26,682	25,901	25,446
Discounts / Advances	108,209	103,211	95,126 / 7,317	94,696 / 7,276	94,266	93,517
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,900	2,015	2,015	2,015	2,015	2,015
Banknotes in circulation	112,845	103,679	100,326	104,019	99,736	101,200
Current accounts / Deposits	98,109	73,441	25,023 / 49,819	19,706 / 50,399	24,355 / 49,773	19,120 / 51,130

LONDON RATES.

	Apr. 7, 1932.	Apr. 8, 1932.	Apr. 9, 1932.	Apr. 11, 1932.	Apr. 12, 1932.	Apr. 13, 1932.	Apr. 14, 1932.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 17, 1932)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Market rates of discount— 60 days' bankers' drafts	2⅝	2⅝–11/16	2⅝–11/16	2⅝–¾	2⅝–11/16	2⅝–11/16	2⅝
3 months' do.	2⅝	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾	2 9/16–⅝	2⅝–2 11/16
4 months' do.	2⅝	2⅝–11/16	2⅝–11/16	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾
6 months' do.	2⅝	2 11/16–¾	2 11/16–¾	2 11/16–¾	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾
Discount Treasury Bills— 2 months'	1⅞–2	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	1⅞–2
3 months'	2⅛	2½–9/16	2½–9/16	2½–9/16	2½–9/16	2 7/16–½	2 1/16
Loans—Day-to-day	1½–2	1½–2½	1½–2½	1½–2½	1–2½	1½–2½	1½–2
Short	2	2½–¾	2½–¾	2½–¾	2–2½	2–2½	1½–2
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
At notice	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1932.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mar. 23	1½–2½	2½	2½–2⅝	2⅝–2¾	3½	4	4½
„ 31	2–3	2½–2⅝	2½–2⅝	2⅝–2¾	3½	4	4½
Apr. 7	2	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝–¾	3½	4	4½
„ 14	1½–2½	2⅝–11/16	2⅝–¾	2⅝–¾	3½	4	4½

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance.	Par.	April 16, 1931. 3.45 p.m.	April 7, 1932. 4.0 p.m.	April 14, 1932. 3.45 p.m.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85 13/16–⅞	3·79–3·79¼	3·76⅞–3·77¼
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·86 1/16–⅛	4·17–4·19	4·17–4·19
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·25–·27	96–96¼	95⅞–95⅞
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·40–40½	15·95–16·00	15⅞–15⅞
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·10⅝–⅞	9·35–9·37	9·27–9·32
Brussels	belgas to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·94½–95½	27–27¼	26 13/16–26 15/16
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·78–·80	73½–73⅝	73¼–73⅜
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·21½–·22	19·47–19·52	19⅛–19¼
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–·17½	19⅝–19⅞	19⅝–19⅞
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·14½–·15	18⅞–18⅞	19⅜–19⅝
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–·17	18⅞–18⅞	18⅞–18⅞
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	47·50–60	50–50½	49⅝–49⅞
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	110	108⅛–⅜	109½–110½	109½–110½
Vienna	schillgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·54–·57	30–34†	30–34†
Prague	kronen to £1	T.T.	164¼	164–164⅛	127½–128½	126⅞–127⅞
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	276·316	276–276½	210–220	210–220
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·85–·89	20–21 (ƒ)	20–21(ƒ)
Bucharest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	816–818	630–645	625–640
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	673·659	668–673	500–540	500–540
Athens	drachmae to £1	T.T.	375	374⅝–375½	280–320	280–320
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	1025 sellers	775–825†	775–825†
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	9·43½–·451	7·30–7·32	7·34½–7·36½
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43⅛–⅜	33½–34½	33½–34½
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅞–193¼	210–220	210–220
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49	35–40	35–40
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20–·27	13–15	13–15
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·20–·30	19–21	19–21
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97⅛–⅜	97⅝–97⅞	97⅝–97⅞
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	37⅝–⅞	36⅛–36⅜	36⅛–36⅜
Rio de Janeiro	pence to milr.	90 days	5·899	3⅞–4	4–⅛	4⅛–4⅛
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	32–32½	28–30	28–30†
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·94	31·80†	31·55†
Lima	soles to £1	90 days	17·3	17·40	13·50	13·52½
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 31/32–1/6	1/6 1/16–3/32	1/6–1/16
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 31/32–1/6	1/6 1/16–3/32	1/6–1/16
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 31/32–1/6	1/6 1/16–3/32	1/6–1/16
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	11⅜d–1/0 1/16	1/3–1/3¼	1/2¾–1/3
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	1/3⅝–⅞	1/8–1/8¼	1/7⅞–1/8
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3⅞–2/4	2/3⅞–2/3 15/16	2/3⅞–2/3⅞
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·582d.	2/0¼–⅜	1/8⅞–1/9	1/9⅛–1/9¼
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	2/0⅛	2/6¾–2/7¼	2/7–2/8
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·20–·30	11½–11¾	11–11½
Bangkok	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·82d.	1/9⅞	2/2¾–2/4½	2/2⅞–2/4⅞

† Nominal. (ƒ) Official rate.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From	To		Changed.	From	To
		%	%			%	%
[illegible]	July 1, 1931	9	8	Madrid	July 8, 1931	6	6½
[illegible]	Sept. 22, 1931	2	3	Oslo	Mar. 3, 1932	5½	5
[illegible]	Feb. 26, 1932	12	11	Paris	Oct. 9, 1931	2	2½
[illegible]	Mar. 16, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Apr. 11, 1932	6	5
[illegible]	July 20, 1931	6½	7½	Pretoria	Nov. 13, 1931	5	6
[illegible]	Mar. 4, 1932	7	6	Reval	Jan. 28, 1932	6½	5½
[illegible]	Jan. 13, 1932	3½	3½	Riga	Oct. 1, 1930	7	6a / 7b
[illegible]	Mar. [illegible], 1932	8	7	Rome	Mar. 21, 1932	7	6
[illegible]	Jan. [illegible], 1932	8	7	Sofia	Sept. 30, 1931	8½	9½
[illegible]	Feb. 26, 1932	7	6	Stockholm	Mar. 3, 1932	5½	5
[illegible]	Mar. 11, 1932	6	5	Swiss Bank places	Jan. 22, 1931	2½	2
[illegible]	Nov. [illegible], 1931	6	5	Tokio	Mar. 12, 1932	6·57	5·84
[illegible]	Feb. [illegible], 1932	8	7	Vienna	Mar. 17, 1932	8	7
[illegible]	Mar. 4, 1932	8½	7½	Warsaw	Oct. 3, 1930	6½	7½
[illegible]	Apr. 6, 1932	7	6½	Irish	Mar. 17, 1932	5	4½
[illegible]	Feb. 26, 1932	3½	3				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, [illegible].
a [illegible] to banks and credit institutions.
b [illegible] private persons and firms.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Apr. 15, 1931.	Mar. 16, 1932.	Mar. 23, 1932.	Mar. 30, 1932.	Apr. 6, 1932.	Apr. 13, 1932.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	2	3½	3½	3	3	3
Bank acceptances:— (Selling Rates)						
Members—eligible, 90 days	1⅛	2⅝	2⅝	2½	2½	2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	1⅛	2¾	2¾	2⅝	2⅝	2⅛
Ineligible, 90 days	2	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3⅛
Commercial accept., 90 days	2⅜	3¾	3¾	3¾	3¾	3⅝

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Apr. 15, 1931.	Mar. 30, 1932.	Apr. 6, 1932.	Apr. 13, 1932.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·83⅛	3·75⅝	3·79½	3·75½
Cable	Dollars for £1		4·85⅞	3·78	3·81⅞	3·78
Cheques	Dollars for £1		4·85⅜	3·77⅞	3·81⅝	3·77⅞
Paris ... cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·91⅛	3·93⅞	3·94⅞	3·94⅞
Brussels „	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·90¼	13·96	14·00	14·00
Switzerland „	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·26	19·37½	19·45½	19·45
Italy „	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23⅝	5·18⅞	5·16¼	5·14½
Berlin „	Cents for 1 mark	23·82	23·79½	23·77	23·72	23·73
Vienna „	Cts. for Austrn. shig.	14·07	14·05½	...	...	...
Madrid „	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	10·50	7·56½	7·56	7·61
Amsterdam „	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·12⅞	40·38	40·30	40·50
Copenhagen „	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·73½	20·95	20·95	20·60
Oslo „	Cents for 1 kroner		26·73½	19·92	19·95	19·45
Stockholm „	Cents for 1 kroner		26·76	20·35	20·32	19·20
Athens „	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅝	12·87½	12·87½	12·87½
Montreal „	Can. cents for $1	100	⅛ dis.	9⅝ dis.	9½ dis.	9⅝ dis.
Yokohama „	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	49·35	33⅞	33 1/16	33 1/16
Hong Kong „	Cents for H. Kong $	...	24·50	...	...	...
Shanghai „	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	31·37½	...	...	...
Calcutta „	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·10	28⅜	28⅝	28 5/16
Buenos Aires „	Gold pesos for $100	103·65	126·65	...	...	...
Rio de Janeiro „	Cents for 1 milreis	11·96	7·25	...	...	...
Valparaiso „	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·03	...	...	...

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

BUYING RATES.

	T.T.	Sight.	30 days' sight.	60 days' sight.	90 days' sight.
London on:— Rhodesia / South Africa	⅛% dis. £80⅛	⅞% dis. £81⅛	1⅞% dis. £81⅞	2⅞% dis. £82⅛	3⅞% dis. £83⅛

SELLING RATES PER £100 (STERLING).

	Sight.	Telegraphic.
London on:—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rhodesia	99 17 6	99 15 0
South Africa	80 0 0	79 15 0

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of Exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Latest Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	20·68†
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·2215	„	22·75†
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £	5	„	3·98†
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	„	4·96
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	„	10·48
Bolivia	Bolivianos to £	13·33	„	13·30

† Nominal.

OVERSEAS DOMINION RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.* Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	125	109¾	125	...	125½	110
Sight	126½	111½	125½	109⅝	124 1/16	108½	125¼	109½
30 days	127⅛	111⅞	...	...	124¼	108¼	125	109¼
60 days	127⅝	112⅜	...	...	123¾	107⅞	124⅝	109
90 days	128⅛	113	...	...	123¼	107⅜	124¼	108⅞

All rates (Australia and New Zealand) now based on £100—LONDON.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended April 14, 1932, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		To—	
Germany	17,580	Germany	604
Algeria	7,983	Netherlands	17,775
Irish Free State	300	France	1,100,063
British S. Africa	1,218,545	Switzerland	1,200
British India	911,732	Czechoslovakia	10,960
Straits Settlements	47,940		
Australia	78,000		
New Zealand	12,890		
Other countries	4,716		
Total declared value of imports	2,228,946	Total declared value of exports	1,130,602

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write on April 13, 1932, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £120,807,239 on the 6th instant, as compared with £120,807,003 on the previous Wednesday. The s.s. "Viceroy of India," which sailed from Bombay on the 9th instant, carries gold to the value of about £272,700. Most of the gold offered in the open market has been taken for a destination not disclosed.

Quotations during the week :—

	Per fine ounce.	Equivalent value of £ sterling.
April 7	109s.	15s. 7·1d.
" 8	109s. 8d.	15s. 5·9d.
" 9	109s. 1d.	15s. 6·9d.
" 11	109s. 4d.	15s. 6·5d.
" 12	109s. 2d.	15s. 6·8d.
" 13	109s. 5d.	15s. 6·3d.
Average	109s. 3·3d.	15s. 6·6d.

SILVER.

A further decline in prices was seen during the past week. Although China was inclined to buy, the market has been poorly supported and, following re-sales by Indian Bazaar and other bulls, quotations had fallen to 16 11/16d. for cash and 16¾d. for two months' delivery by the 9th instant. At this level, sellers showed some hesitation, and a continuation of China buying, assisted by inquiry from the Continent, caused a reaction on the 11th instant to 16 15/16d. and 17d. for the respective deliveries. The improvement, however, was not maintained, there being little demand at the advance; and with America disposed to offer, prices again eased, being quoted to-day at 16¾d. and 16 13/16d., which are the lowest fixed since October 3, 1931.

Quotations during the week :—

In London.	Bar Silver per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two Months' delivery.	In New York.	Cents per Ounce ·999 fine.
April 7	16 11/16d.	16¾d.	April 6	28¾
" 8	16 11/16d.	16¾d.	" 7	28½
" 9	16 11/16d.	16¾d.	" 8	28½
" 11	16 15/16d.	17d.	" 9	28⅜
" 12	16 15/16d.	16¾d.	" 11	28⅜
" 13	16¾d.	16 13/16d.	" 12	28⅜
Average	16·781d.	16·844d.		

The highest rate of exchange on New York recorded during the period from the 7th instant to the 13th instant was $3·82, and the lowest $3·77½.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.		Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1932.	s.	d.	d.	d.		d.
April 8	109	8	16 11/16	16¾	April 18, 1926	31 1/16
" 9	109	8	16 11/16	16¾	" 17, 1927	29⅜
" 11	109	4	16 15/16	17	" 9, 1928	26
" 12	109	2	16 15/16	16¾	" 12, 1929	26 1/16
" 13	109	5	16¾	16 13/16	" 16, 1930	19⅜
" 14	109	7	16⅝	16 11/16	" 16, 1931	13⅝

Company News.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

January 31, 1932.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with May 31, 1931. £
Ord. shares, £1 ...	3,482,224	+ 137
5% cum. pref., £5	2,000,000	...
Creditors	1,098,244	+ 11,143
Capital reserve ...	639,848	+ 6,848
Reserves—		
Share premium account	2,313,725	− 778,303
Insurance Act ...	150,000	...
Soleships extension	196,676	− 75,182
Buildings	962,548	+ 190,588
Allocations—		
Officers' and servants' pensns.	275,000	...
Provident & welfare fund	25,000	...
London premises redemption account	1,138	+ 1,768
Total	10,146,033	− 633,981

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with May 31, 1931. £
Cash	294,138	− 110,990
Treasury bills	216,940	+ 216,940
Freehold & leasehold premises in London	993,715	...
Shares in other companies	228,309	− 130,733
Debtors	733,532	− 283,743
Ships & steamers	53,417	− 21,046
Merchandise in hand and in transit	1,920,014	− 178,820
Land, buildings & equipment in Canada	5,463,241	− 68,388
Redemption policies	1,760	+ 1,760
Net advances	239,766	− 56,290
Total	10,146,033	− 633,981

LEVER BROTHERS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
7% cum. pref.	30,577,099	...
8% cum. A pref.	15,505,173	...
20% cum. pref. ord.	3,787,312	...
20% cum. A pref. ord.	3,000,000	...
20% cum. B pref. ord.	Nil	− 405,500
5% cum. pref. ord.	Nil	− 952,462
Ord. shares	6,500,000	+1,500,000
7% deb. 1931–41	3,440,000	− 80,000
5% deb.	3,380,330	− 127,792
Interest accrued	103,862	− 3,063
General reserve	1,000,000	...
Creditors—Employees' savings bank depositors	222,370	+ 7,931
Reserve for taxation, bills payable and open accounts	950,729	+ 293,409
Shares acquired	Nil	− 404,167
Divs. on pref., pref. ord. and ord. shares	3,019,119	+ 30,829
Divs. on pref. certs. under Co-Partnership Trust	42,572	+ 42,572
Profit and loss	230,482	+ 22,687
Total	71,759,048	− 75,554

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Shares in and loans to subsidiary cos. ...		
Soap and perfumery cos.	30,903,367	+ 667,005
West African Plantations, oil milling and other raw material producing cos.	16,928,667	+1,460,814
Edible products companies ...	4,598,470	−1,891,876
Land Transport and Investment Cos. ...	790,873	− 115,555
Capital loans and advances	400,053	− 65,252
Shares in allied and other companies and dividends estimated to be received thereon	8,147,967	− 481,148
Properties	6,476,426	+ 771,621
Trustee securities and cash	79,555	+ 1,864
Stocks	719,224	− 798,643
Debtors	1,232,806	+ 103,831
Cash	1,481,611	+ 136,665
Total	71,759,048	− 75,554

UNILEVER, LIMITED,

December 31, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
7% cum. pref. £1	2,720,000	+ 123,885
Ord. £1	11,318,750	...
Def. (1s.)	100,000	...
Reserve	5,823,312	+ 620,000
Creditors	413,442	− 56,502
Unilever N.V. current ac.	1,445,890	+ 1,445,890
Profit and Loss	674,751	− 633,571
Total	22,496,145	+ 1,499,702

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1930. £
Investments at cost	19,261,511	+ 2,591,337
Debtors	2,007,063	− 779,814
Unilever N.V., current ac.	...	− 1,279,636
Cash	1,227,571	+ 967,835
Total	22,496,145	+ 1,499,702

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

(See page 841.)

	Total Ordinary and Preference Capital.	Net Profits.		Carried to Reserve, &c.	
1931.	£	£	%	£	%
First quarter	756,871,719	67,736,228	8·9	10,860,417	16
Second quarter	745,477,186	64,051,136	8·6	9,447,883	15
Third quarter	343,500,531	15,996,685	4·6	Dr.1,410,876	Dr9·4
Fourth quarter	383,451,625	12,292,859	3·2	Dr.2,485,419	Dr.20
Total	2,229,301,061	160,076,906	7·2	16,503,205	9·7
1932.					
First quarter	665,704,181	54,314,815	8·2	5,220,116	9·6

AVERAGE RATES PAID.

	On Debenture Capital.				On Preference Capital.				On Ordinary Capital.			
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1st quarter	4·89	4·89	4·82	4·8	5·4	5·8	5·6	4·9	10·9	10·0	8·8	6·7
2nd "	5·10	4·94	4·96	...	5·9	6·3	5·8	...	9·8	10·3	8·3	—
3rd "	4·88	5·36	5·24	...	6·0	5·0	4·5	...	10·3	8·3	5·4	—
4th "	5·29	5·19	5·18	...	4·7	4·5	3·8	...	10·0	8·4	3·9	—
Year ...	5·15	5·38	5·01	...	5·5	5·7	5·2	...	10·5	9·5	7·2	—

	Debenture Capital	Rate of Int.	Preference Capital.	Rate of Int.	Ordinary Capital.	Rate of Div.	Rate of Div. a Year Ago.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	%
Breweries	9,965,234	4·8	8,084,774	4·8	9,132,331	11·3	11·4
Electric Lighting, &c.	25,107,801	5·2	22,440,758	5·8	37,527,193	7·4	9·1
Financial land & investment	3,113,571	4·6	3,979,947	4·7	7,901,784	6·9	7·2
Gas	23,746,517	4·2	8,696,617	4·6	51,655,839	5·6	6·0
Hotels, restaurants, etc.	437,000	4·0	2,020,554	1·4	886,125	4·9	9·7
Iron, coal and steel	8,089,692	6·2	10,056,063	2·3	31,478,789	1·5	3·3
Motor and cycle	355,000	8·7	4,021,800	2·4	3,072,684	2·5	6·6
Rubber	354,812	7·0	38,349	1·7	6,310,198	0·1	0·4
Shipping	300,000	5·0	875,000	5·1	3,578,063	2·7	1·3
Shops and stores	9,457,743	5·1	23,281,045	6·9	19,732,848	14·8	18·9
Tea	5,200	5·0	2,715	6·0	5,860	—	10·3
Textiles	9,006,144	5·2	21,636,146	4·8	44,882,887	4·2	6·6
Tramway and omnibus	2,441,139	4·4	2,868,964	5·4	6,630,491	9·4	9·1
Trusts	46,912,101	4·5	37,277,353	4·2	29,334,685	6·2	8·6
Waterworks	4,848,073	4·5	4,801,285	5·1	7,392,069	6·6	7·8
Miscellaneous	21,903,075	5·1	65,834,053	5·1	170,670,546	12·5	20·6
Total	162,041,602	4·8	235,515,423	4·9	430,182,788	8·7	9·6

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(a) Week ended April 3, 1932. (b) Week ended April 9, 1932.		Miles Open.	Gross Receipts, week ended April 10, 1932. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate Gross Receipts, 14 weeks. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	1932	3,761	181	178	111	289	470	2,376	2,414	1515	3,929	6,305
	1931	3,761	220	167	72	239	459	2,607	2,618	1512	4,130	6,737
(a) L. & N. Eastern	1932	6,355	272	295	234	529	801	3,627	4,256	3352	7,608	11,235
	1931	6,351	328	321	225	546	874	3,924	4,817	3537	8,354	12,278
L. M. & Scottish	1932	6,962§	405	442	257	699	1,104	5,524	6,101	3548	9,649	15,173
	1931	6,957	484	418	207	625	1,109	5,861	6,551	3835	10,386	16,247
Southern ...	1932	2,181	247	63	30	93	340	3,377	871	477	1,348	4,725
	1931	2,180	297	65	25	90	387	3,666	979	468	1,447	5,103
Total...	1932	19260§	1,105	978	632	1610	2,715	14904	13642	8892	22,534	37,438
	1931	19249	1,329	971	529	1500	2,829	16048	14965	9352	24,317	40,365
(a) Metropolitan	1932	59	30·5	...	...	3·6	34·1	411·7	...	...	49·7	461·4
	1931	59	32·7	...	...	3·3	36·0	435·0	...	...	52·6	487·6
(a) Underground E.R.	1932	...	287·0	...	...	...	287·0	4045·9	...	...	...	4045·9
	1931	...	305·8	...	...	...	305·8	4156·8	...	...	...	4156·8
(a) Green Line, &c.	1932	...	27·0	...	...	...	27·0	380·2	...	...	...	380·2
	1931*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) L. & Sb. Group	1932	...	41·8	...	...	...	41·8	592·2	...	...	...	592·2
	1931	...	45·5	...	...	...	45·5	605·7	...	...	...	605·7
(b) Belfast & Co. Down	1932	80	1·8	...	...	0·7	2·5	26·9	...	...	9·7	36·6
	1931	80	3·9	...	...	0·6	4·5	28·9	...	...	9·9	38·8
(b) Great Northern	1932	562	8·9	...	...	11·9	20·8	127·4	...	...	184·1	311·5
	1931	562	13·6	...	...	12·1	25·7	139·1	...	...	207·0	346·1
(b) Great Southern	1932	2,182	20·9	...	...	38·2	59·1	279·0	...	...	522·8	801·8
	1931	2,182	26·1	...	...	39·5	66·6	300·5	...	...	600·5	901·0

* The operations of these Companies were extended during 1931.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1932.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1932.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
		1932.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal......	50	Mar. 12	1,330	3,40,100	− 99,907	1,82,35,923	− 16,13,208
Barsi Lt. Ry.	51	19	202	31,700	− 4,500	19,86,700	+ 27,100
Bengal & N. Western	25	19	2,114	6,78,116	− 40,958	1,52,81,465	+ 4,21,449
Bengal-Nagpur ...	50	12	3,274	16,53,000	+ 6,310	6,73,44,700	− 91,77,019
Bombay, Bar. & C.I.	1	April 9	3,084	20,97,000	−1,99,000	26,57,000	− 2,95,000
Madras & S. Mahr.	51	Mar. 19	3,230	16,39,000	−2,46,365	7,60,83,036	− 32,06,360
†Rohilk'nd Kumaon	25	19	572	1,63,316	− 1,972	30,76,567	− 94,176
South Indian.........	51	19	2,496	10,89,389	+ 85,712	5,43,25,668	− 49,68,747

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1932.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1932.	+ or −
CANADIAN.							
		1932.		$	$	$	$
Canadian National	14	Apr. 7	20538	2,771,166	− 625,222	36,972,516	− 8,624,862
Canadian Pacific...	14	7	16811	2,221,000	− 556,000	30,531,000	− 7,002,000
SOUTH AMERICAN.							
		1932.		£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	15	April 10	804	13,170	− 2,710	181,590	− 112,360
Argentine N.E. ...	15	9	753	8,100	− 4,500	486,900	− 69,200
Argentine Transandine	15	9	111	1,769	− 1,196	73,697	− 70,139
B.A. and Pacific ...	15	9	2,806	126,000	− 27,000	5,131,000	− 276,000
B.A. Central.........	15	10	...	10,214	− 1,487	410,799	− 54,372
B.A. Gt. Southern	15	10	5,076	210,000	− 7,000	8,601,000	− 265,000
B.A. Western	15	10	1,926	65,000	− 20,000	3,003,000	+ 57,000
Central Argentine...	15	10	273	202,000	− 17,000	8,800,000	+ 184,000
Central Uruguayan	15	10	273	14,678	− 4,887	572,147	− 364,818
C. Urg. (East Extn.)	15	10	311	3,806	− 823	125,712	− 81,039
C. Urg. (N. Extn.)...	15	10	185	1,591	− 911	60,883	− 45,637
C. Urg. (W. Extn.)	15	10	211	1,265	− 425	52,014	− 40,201
Cordoba Central...	41	9	1,218	41,000	− 13,000	1,929,000	− 386,000
Entre Rios...........	41	9	810	18,100	− 9,500	914,000	− 229,800
G. Westn. of Brazil	15	9	1,062	8,300	+ 2,600	158,900	+ 32,000
Leopoldina	15	9	1,918	17,686	− 860	365,674	+ 34,603
Leopoldina Terminal.	15	9	...	Ms281,000	− 3,000	4,121,000	+ 207,000
Nitrate	3	Mar. 31	411	4,227	− 4,714	21,411	− 43,337
Paraguay Central	41	April 9	274	3,260	− 1,070	120,560	− 29,570
Salvador	41	9	...	3,225	− 1,896	117,477	− 27,962
San Paulo	14	3	1531	36,400	+ 14,383	459,155	+ 84,845
United of Havana	41	9	1,367	34,336	− 2,139	1,046,924	− 562,672
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
		1932.					
[illegible] Delta Light Railways	50	Mar. 20	620	86,567	− 615	247,153	− 41,372
[illegible]	13	31	...	61,941	+ 233	21,868	− 1,117
[illegible]	13	Apr. 2	104	Rs.59,394	− 3,982	669,417	− 406,388
[illegible] Railway .	4	7	483	168,300	− 59,700	2,335,900	− 567,900

TRAMWAYS WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Mileage.	1932.	+ or −	1932.	+ or −
		1932.		£	£	£	£
[illegible]	14	Apr. 8	339	69,119	− 4,037	938,717	− 108,862
B. Aires Lacroze ...	41	10	...	10,214	− 1,487	410,799	− 54,372
Isle of Thanet Elec.	13	Mar. 30	...	3,418	+ 896	34,140	− 2,122
[illegible]	1	Apr. 6	194	27,414	− 1,574	23,156	− 779
[illegible]	16	Mar. 31	...	Rs. 52,638	+ 3,821	3,07,100	+ 16,201
L.C.C. Tramways .	1	Apr. 6	166	75,887	+ 1,834	75,887	+ 1,834

† Months.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC.

Company.	Months.	Ending 1932.	Description.	Receipts for Month. 1932.	+ or −	Receipts to Date. 1932.	+ or −
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mar. 31	Gross	[illegible]9,300	− 4,300	26,400	− 9,850
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mar. 31	Gross	[illegible]8,480	− 2,049	84,148	− 40,177
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mar. 31	Gross	[illegible]	− 1,176	24,929	− 12,091
[illegible] &c.	[illegible]	Feb. 29	Gross	Rs.4,60,370	+ 2,120	9,04,305	− 14,755
			Net	Rs.2,12,603	− 23,897	3,87,923	− 77,137
[illegible]	6	Mar. 31	Gross	$122,000	− 18,000	738,000	− 91,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mar. 31	Gross	[illegible]	+ 3,783	96,332	+ 11,182
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mar. [illegible]	Gross	[illegible]	− 321	11,891	− 4,588

REPORTS AND NOTICES

The British South Africa Company announces that the Right Honourable Baron Lloyd of Dolobran, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.S.O., has been elected a director of the company.

GOVERNMENT, &c.

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES OF THE FIRST ISSUE.—Closing date of conversion offer. The Treasury announce that the latest date on which application may be made for the conversion of Savings Certificates of the First Issue under the offers announced on December 29th last is Saturday, April 30, 1932. Conversion will be carried out as on the date of receipt of the application unless a later date is specified on the application form. If, however, a date is specified for conversion, it must not be later than May 23, 1932. Savings Certificates of the First Issue not converted may continue to be held until March 31, 1940. No application for such retention is necessary.

RAILWAYS.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD CO.—The annual report of the above company shows a decline in total operating revenues of $122,375,081—or 21·5 per cent. Net income earned was $19,545,194, equivalent to 2·97 per cent. on the outstanding capital stock at the close of the year, as compared with 10·58 per cent. last year. Income from investments and other sources was $48,036,336—a decrease of $7,230,341. Rental paid leased lines interest on funded debt, and other charges, amounted to $79,546,948, an increase of $908,532. Dividends of 6½ per cent. were paid to stockholders, part of which was charged to profit and loss account. The gross income of the company was $99,072,142, against $147,448,254—a decrease of $48,356,092.

BANKS.

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.—Following is a statement of condition as at March 31, 1932 :—Resources: Cash, $15,221,163; United States Government securities, $19,059,916; other bonds, $4,480,764; Federal Reserve Bank stock, $450,000; loans and discounts, $41,290,888; customers' liability on acceptances (exclusive of acceptances discounted and anticipations), $6,556,542; acceptances of other banks and bills of exchange sold with endorsement, $1,535,488; interest accrued and other assets, $886,589; total, $89,481,350. Liabilities: Capital, $7,000,000; surplus and undivided profits, $9,330,662; reserve for taxes, interest, &c., $1,464,310; dividend payable, $140,000; acceptances, $6,783,541; liability as endorser on acceptances of other banks and bills of exchange, $1,535,488; other liabilities, $1,782,825; deposits, $61,444,524; total, $89,481,350.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.—The condensed statement of condition of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York as of March 28, 1932, shows total resources, $1,277,400,674·74; deposits, $892,931,647·81; capital, $90,000,000; surplus funds, $170,000,000; undivided profits, $24,963,384·21.

MISCELLANEOUS.

KREUGER GROUP OF COMPANIES (PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE).—Messrs Higginson and Company announce that the following gentlemen have agreed to act as a provisional committee in response to invitations extended to them by the meeting held April 6th representative of large interests in the Kreuger group of companies: C. L. Dalziel (Higginson and Company); Sir Arthur Worley, Bart., C.B.E. (Chairman, British Insurance Association); T. Gilbert Scott (Laing and Cruickshank); E. Guy Ridpath (Kitchin, Baker, Mason and Company); Hildred Carlisle (Secretary, Investment Trust Corporation, Ltd.); L. A. Stride (Investment Manager, Industrial and General Trust, Ltd.); secretary, D. Neylan, 80 Lombard Street, E.C.3. The committee will keep in touch with the situation in Sweden and the investigating Committee there, and will consider what steps should be taken to protect the interests of British holders of the securities concerned.

SWEDISH MATCH AND KREUGER COMPANIES (BRITISH PROTECTIVE COMMITTEE).—The above committee request that all British holders of shares or securities in any of the following companies, viz.: Swedish Match Company, Kreuger and Toll Company, International Match Corporation, will notify the secretary of the committee, Mr. D. Neylan, at 80 Lombard Street, London, E.C.3, full particulars of their holdings in order that the committee may know the extent to which British holders are interested, and be able to communicate with such holders as occasion may require.

SWEDISH MATCH AND KREUGER COMPANIES.—Owing to doubts raised by certain statements in the Press, the secretary of the Swedish Match and Kreuger Companies British Protective Committee has received many inquiries from shareholders regarding the possibility of there being any liability on the shares of Swedish Match Company and Kreuger and Toll Company. The Committee caused a specific inquiry to be made to the official Committee of Investigation in Stockholm, and has received the following reply by cable:—To the Secretary of the British Protective Committee, 80, Lombard Street, London. "Pursuant to your request the Committee for the Investigation of the Kreuger and Toll Companies have instructed me to inform you that Aktiebolaget Kreuger and Toll and Svenska Tandsticks Aktiebolaget are limited liability companies incorporated under the Swedish Companies Act of August 12, 1910, and that ownership of the shares of these companies does not involve shareholders in any liability for debts of the Companies.

LONDON TIN CORPORATION, LTD.—The net income of the above company derived from dividends, commissions and sundry profits during the year, is £46,340, to which is added £742 received in respect of transfer fees. The balance at credit is reduced to £29,507 The balance at debit on interest account shows a substantial increase at £31,284. The directors attribute this to heavier commitments in earlier months and high rates ruling during the year. The whole of the depreciation has been met from the reserves. The balance on appropriation account is £131,187, of which it is proposed to transfer £20,000 to taxation reserve, and carry forward the balance of £111,187. The meeting will be held on April 28th, at the hall of The Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, London, E.C.2, at 12 o'clock noon.

NIGER COMPANY.—The accounts for the year 1931 of the Niger Company, which is controlled by Lever Brothers, show a divisible profit of £1,076,804, as compared with £851,761 for 18 months, and comprises £108,017 brought in, £221,411 profit and £747,376 as allowance from Lever Brothers in respect of the losses of the United Africa Company and exchange differences. The Lever Brothers allowance in the preceding period of £92,927. Debenture interest requires £279,417, against £476,208 (for 18 months), £15,000 (£22,500) is written off debenture stock issues discount and expenses, and £648,279 is put to reserve against investment in United African Company, being the company's proportion of the estimated loss accrued to December 31, 1931. The sum left over of £124,107 (against £108,017) is carried forward.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Year Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.					
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.			Net Profit.	Dividend.
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Whitbread and Co.	Dec. 31	230,274	256,226	486,500	...	140,566	14	257,475	88,459	303,132	14
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Notting Hill Electric	Dec. 31	32,590	46,848	79,438	9,000	9,414	9/1·365	36,887	24,137	53,502	11¼-4%
South Wales Elec. Power	Dec. 31	3,210	22,550	25,760	...	...	...	20,000	5,760	23,209	...
Financial Land, &c.											
Agricultural Mortgage Corp.	Mar. 31	17,758	61,567	79,325	...	25,197	5	48,969	5,159	49,940	2½
Hudson's Bay Company	Jan. 31	...	*Dr778,303*	*Dr778,303*	...	...	...	*Dr778,303*	...	*Dr746334*	...
Gas.											
Bombay Gas Co.	Dec. 31	39,266	26,054	65,320	...	24,000	8	2,287	39,033	28,327	8
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Gordon Hotels	Dec. 31	23,112	*Dr. 28,519*	*Dr. 5,407*	...	...	...	*Dr. 35,000*	29,593	102,272	5
Savoy Hotel	Dec. 31	53,486	28,403	81,889	17,500	...	...	10,600	53,789	163,778	10
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Fairbairn Lawson Combe Barbour	Dec. 31	*Dr130,437*	*Dr. 45,821*	*Dr176,258*	...	...	...	...	*Dr176258*	*Dr89,414*	...
Motors and Cycles.											
Albion Motors	Dec. 31	36,955	*Dr. 18,966*	17,989	8,032	...	...	...	9,957	46,195	7½
Rubber.											
Amherst Estates (Selangor)	Dec. 31	8,622	*Dr. 4,001*	4,621	...	...	...	1,159	3,462	1,304	...
Batu Tiga (Selangor) Rubber	Dec. 31	17,602	1,216	18,819	...	...	...	...	18,819	6,141	...
Cluny Rubber Estates	Dec. 31	5,579	*Dr. 2,073*	3,506	...	...	...	...	3,506	*Dr. 1,614*	...
Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber	Dec. 31	39,786	*Dr. 32,732*	7,054	...	...	...	*Dr. 32,732*	39,786	*Dr28,649*	...
Gula-Kalumpong Rubber	Dec. 31	63,610	*Dr. 4,312*	59,298	...	...	...	15,000	44,298	22,542	...
Jugra Land and Carey	Nov. 30	20,086	*Dr. 14,627*	5,459	...	...	...	...	5,459	924	...
Lanadron Rubber	Dec. 31	7,305	*Dr. 3,443*	3,862	...	...	...	...	3,862	*Dr. 7,783*	...
Ledbury Rubber	Dec. 31	12,001	*Dr. 3,560*	8,441	...	...	...	587	7,854	2,660	...
New Crocodile River Rubber	Dec. 31	4,719	*Dr. 12,200*	*Dr. 7,481*	...	...	...	*Dr. 9,643*	2,162	*Dr.14426*	...
Panagula Rubber Co.	Dec. 31	2,008	*Dr. 2,315*	307	...	...	...	216	91	69	...
Rubber Estates of Ceylon	Dec. 31	455	*Dr. 3,872*	*Dr. 3,417*	...	...	...	*Dr. 3,500*	83	*Dr. 5,099*	...
Soengei Rampah Rubber	Dec. 31	8,792	*Dr. 3,429*	5,363	...	...	...	...	5,363	*Dr. 2,707*	...
Trolak Estates	Nov. 30	*Dr. 157*	*Dr. 2,750*	*Dr. 2,907*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 2,907*	*Dr. 3,726*	...
Shipping.											
Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers)	Dec. 31	17,703	*Dr. 17,054*	649	...	...	...	...	649	*Dr46,421*	...
United British Steamship	Dec. 31	51,252	*Dr. 13,723*	37,529	...	...	...	...	37,529	1,070	...
Tea.											
Mount Vernon (Ceylon) Tea	Dec. 31	2,591	11,177	13,768	...	10,000	25	465	3,303	14,814	30
Pantiya Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	1,572	*Dr. 1,868*	*Dr. 296*	...	...	...	*Dr. 1,500*	1,204	*Dr. 2,102*	...
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Tea	Dec. 31	7,867	11,540	19,407	...	10,000	5	1,500	7,907	13,658	5
Textiles.											
Grainger and Smith	Dec. 31	8,672	22,712	31,384	6,187	10,356	6	5,816	9,025	24,925	6
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Calcutta Tramways	Dec. 31	5,499	37,681	43,180	12,500	24,500	3½	...	6,180	11,387	Nil
Trust.											
African City Properties Trust	Dec. 31	25,076	53,233	78,309	7,500	30,000	12	5,445	25,364	53,826	12
American Investment and General	Mar. 15	28,092	120,129	148,221	32,812	59,938	9	...	55,471	139,202	12
Foreign, American and General	Mar. 15	41,685	103,483	145,168	32,995	46,813	7	...	65,360	119,858	10
Second Scottish American Trust	Mar. 1	47,517	55,301	102,818	9,000	41,175	27	5,000	47,643	65,468	27
Other Companies.											
Allied Newspapers	Jan. 3	215,082	410,910	625,992	289,750	...	...	100,000	236,242	495,220	2½
British and Chinese Corporation	Dec. 31	12,420	*Dr. 5,717*	6,703	...	...	...	...	6,703	*Dr. 8,646*	...
British Drug Houses	Dec. 31	8,330	17,049	25,379	12,100	...	...	3,000	10,279	40,002	5
British United Shoe Machinery	Dec. 31	266,414	380,160	646,574	23,458	311,040	15†	...	312,076	362,457	(m)
Brownz and Eagle	Dec. 31	13,323	29,322	42,645	6,250	10,000	10	12,000	14,395	25,720	9
Edison Swan Electric	Dec. 31	10,092	29,896	39,988	7,500	11,486	6	10,224	10,778	53,486	10
Hutton (John V.)	Jan. 31	1,209	15,712	16,921	...	6,749	7½	7,000	3,172	4,113	5
Jurgens, Ltd.	Dec. 31	178,712	296,271	474,983	141,094	141,094	7	...	192,795	375,779	7
Lever Brothers, Ltd.	Dec. 31	207,794	5,860,926	6,068,720	3380776	650,000 1357462	10‖ 20(*f*)	450,000	230,482	5,749,658	10‖ 20(*f*)
Unilever, Ltd.	Dec. 31	43,197	1,733,805	1,777,002	186,313	1,131,875	10	350,000	108,814	1,798,857	6
Provincial Newspapers	Nov. 30	69,242	99,305	168,547	50,486	...	...	40,000	78,061	112,783	...
Radcliffe's Edible Products	Jan. 31	1,092	9,558	10,650	4,500	469	2½	4,206	1,475	11,051	10
Travers (Joseph) and Sons	Jan. 30	10,001	50,050	60,051	6,250	25,000	12½	8,565	20,236	30,176	10
Van den Bergs, Ltd.	Dec. 31	38,797	463,125	501,922	266,105	187,500	25†	...	48,317	462,720	29†

† Free of income tax. ‖ Ordinary stock. (m) Ordinary dividend absorbed £399,787. (*f*) Preferred ordinary stock.

Commercial Reports.

MARKET SUMMARY.

Business at the principal international commodity markets has been dull. Price movements have been irregular. Among non-ferrous metals, tin declined further in New York and copper also lost a few points. Lead and spelter have remained steady. Among textile raw materials, cotton has been slightly dearer. Rubber failed to recover from the low level reached a fortnight ago. Among cereals, the outstanding feature is the advance in wheat, following the publication of the low official winter wheat estimate for the United States, and reports of crop damage in Central and South-Eastern Europe. Maize and oats were a shade easier, but rye was steady. Sugar continued its downward trend, and cocoa was also slightly easier. On the other hand, coffee shows a slight advance. Sterling commodities, which lend themselves to grading, and therefore to international arbitrage, moved in sympathy with gold prices. According to reports from various industrial centres, the coal trade is as slack as ever, while the iron and steel industries are making little headway. Among the textile trades, cotton and woollen manufacturers are a little less active, but rayon spinners have no difficulty in disposing of their output of yarn of good quality.

THE COAL TRADE.

SHEFFIELD.—The depression continues alike in the home and export markets for coal. Forward contract inquiries have declined further. Pit management is being reorganised and production concentrated on the most suitable. There are ample supplies of best steams, which are quoted at 15s. 6d. to 16s. 3d. f.o.b. The call for industrial fuels is unsatisfactory. House coal is selling fairly freely, but values are easy and prices somewhat irregular. Best ordinary qualities are quoted at 22s. to 23s. at pits. Furnace coke is steady and prices maintained.

GLASGOW.—All-round weakness is shown by the coal market. The foreign inquiry has fallen off considerably as a result of the various restrictions imposed on British coal imports into several countries on the Continent and also because the foreigners have been unwilling to pay the prices asked. Home trade is also depressed, and quantities of coal usually taken up in this trade are being offered in the shipping market, with, of course, a depressing effect on prices. Quotations are lower all along the line this week, nuts being particularly weak, doubles and singles being obtainable at practically the minimum prices. Current rates for the shipping trade are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 14s. 3d.; splint best, 15s. 9d.; splint second, 14s. 3d.; navigation, 15s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 15s.; steam, 13s.-13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 10s.; singles, 8s. 9d.; pearls, 8s. 6d.; dross, 8s. 9d. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s.; third-class steam, 11s.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 10s.; singles, 8s. 9d.; pearls, 8s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 11s.-11s. 6d.; secondary steam, 10s. 9d.-11s.; trebles, 11s.-11s. 6d.; doubles, 10s.; singles, 8s. 9d.-9s.; pearls, 8s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s. 6d.; steam, 13s.; trebles, 12s. 3d.; doubles, 10s. 3d.; singles, 9s. 9d.; pearls, 9s.; dross, 9s.

CARDIFF.—Sluggish conditions continue to prevail in the South Wales coal trade. On the Cardiff market this week there has been little new inquiry, and, notwithstanding the reduction in the quota for the June quarter, many collieries have found it difficult to dispose of their outputs. Shipments, however (foreign and coast-wise), have recovered slightly from the effects of the Easter holiday interruption, and in the week ended April 9th last they totalled 415,100 tons, compared with 268,180 tons the previous week and 515,382 tons in the corresponding week last year. The preliminary Customs returns for the month of March give a total quantity of 1,335,140 tons exported as cargo to foreign destinations, compared with 1,260,329 tons in February and 1,487,079 tons in the corresponding month last year. Dry coals continue to rule at prices slightly above the schedule, but for practically all grades quotations are on the minimum basis. In the sized coal market both bituminous and dry coal nuts are favourably placed, but peas and beans are not so well booked, while duff and other colliery smalls are plentiful and easy. The position in the anthracite trade is relatively better and is receiving new support from the opening of the Canadian trade. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 19s. 6d.; seconds, 18s. 9d. to 19s. 6d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 3d. to 17s. 7½d.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 17s. 9d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d.; coking smalls, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; anthracite, best large, 30s. to 32s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 22s. 6d. to 27s. 6d.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 42s. 6d.; French nuts, 40s. to 48s. 6d.; stove nuts, 32s. 6d. to 42s. 6d.; rubbly culm, 8s. 3d. to 8s. 9d.; foundry culm, 32s. 6d. to 36s.; patent fuel, 19s.; pitwood, ex ship, 19s. to 20s. 6d.

IRON AND STEEL.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—The prospects of a substantial increase in duties on imported iron and steel, writes our correspondent, is having a stimulating effect on this market. Already business is a little more active in Cleveland pig iron, and whereas consumers have hitherto only been buying from hand to mouth, they are now willing to purchase a little ahead, and a fair business has been put through, since particulars of the proposed increase duties became known. The pig iron market on Tuesday was firm in tone, but no change was made in the nominal prices for Cleveland iron, which remain: No. 1, 61s.; No. 3, 59s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 57s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 57s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Trade is still mostly confined to home requirements, and it is satisfactory to find that Scotch founders are taking a little more iron from this district. For export, however, there is very little demand, for foundry iron and shipments are on a low scale. The hematite market is also feeling some effect from the proposed increase in duties, and although the volume of business has not materially increased, so far a few more small orders for early delivery are being booked, and there are some inquiries on the market for forward delivery from firms that have delayed buying as long as possible, and now wish to get offers in hand to cover them against possible advance. Mixed numbers for early delivery are still obtainable at 63s. 6d., but a higher price is asked for forward. In the finished departments not much new business of importance has been booked just recently, but favourable results are expected in connection with tenders that are out in different directions. Prices for steel for home use under the rebate scheme are unchanged, viz.:—Plates, £8 15s.; angles, £8 7s. 6d.; joists, £8 15s. Other main products are also unaltered. Heavy steel rails being £8 10s.; iron Crown bars, £10; 24-gauge black sheets, £8; and 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £9 10s., also for home purposes. In ore, dealers have difficulty in making sales, and prompt lots of best rubio can still be secured at 15s. 6d. c.i.f., but more is quoted for forward delivery, according to period. The rate of freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for prompt tonnage is about 4s. 6d. Coke is still in full supply, and early lots are obtainable at 15s. 6d. per ton delivered at consumers' works. The number of furnaces in blast in the district remains at seventeen.

SHEFFIELD.—The operations of the present month have developed no sign of general improvement in the local iron and steel industry. The tendency in the heavy and crude sections is still to shrink, and inquiries are few and unimportant. Business is, however, expanding in all kinds of special and alloy steels, owing to an increasing use of materials giving higher resistance to stresses and wear. The proportion of alloy steels to plain carbon steels going into use is much greater than at any previous time. The automobile industry is taking substantial quantities of steel parts. The development of wireless provides plenty of work to the makers of permanent magnets, now a substantial branch of local trade. Tool makers are fairly busy. Overseas trade as a whole is quiet, and acute slackness is reported of cutlery and plate. Steel prices are unchanged.

GLASGOW.—There is a considerable amount of anxiety felt in iron and steel trade circles regarding the reported proposals to increase the import duty on iron and steel. In the West of Scotland many manufacturers have for years been dependent on imported semis for a very large proportion of their manufactures and these are naturally much concerned at the prospect of a still further increase in their costs. On the whole, business in Glasgow and the surrounding districts is not showing any improvement, and in almost every case plants are only partially employed. Buyers are only covering for their immediate needs, and consequently the volume of business placed is exceedingly small. Sheetmakers report a fair number of inquiries on the market, but business placed is small, and overseas buyers are trying to do business at prices which are quite unacceptable to local makers. Beyond the large contract secured by Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds for the Iraq Petroleum Company, there is little new business being placed at the tube works, and there is a considerable amount of unemployment at the various plants in Lanarkshire.

CARDIFF.—The recent improvement in the volume of the export trade in tinplates was maintained last week, when the shipments amounted to 160,432 boxes, compared with 120,552 the previous week, and 68,940 in the corresponding week last year. Production has hardly kept pace with this rate of export, and stocks are down by nearly 70,000 boxes, compared with the previous week, and to little more than half what they were a year ago. Prices are unchanged, ruling at 16s. per basis box. Galvanised sheets are steady at about £9 10s. f.o.b. for corrugated in bundles, while Welsh steel bars are unchanged at 95s. per ton net.

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OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The collapse of tin prices was the feature of the metal market this week. The metal was again pressed for sale while buying orders remained scarce. In New York the metal was quoted at 18·50 cents per lb. on Wednesday, against 19·25 cents per lb. a week ago and 21·75 a month ago. Wednesday's official closing quotations in London, in terms of sterling for "standard" cash at £103 7s. 6d. to £103 12s. 6d. per ton, compares with £108 10s. to £108 12s. 6d. on the corresponding day last week. Stocks in London and Liverpool at the end of last week, at 33,110 tons, show a decrease of 107 tons on the week.

COPPER.—In the absence of an improvement in demand, the market in copper remained dull throughout the week. In New York the official export quotation is being persistently undercut. On Wednesday, "Domestic" spot was quoted at 5¾ cents per lb. in New York, against 5¾ cents a week ago, and 6 cents a month ago. Wednesday's official closing price for "standard cash" in London, in terms of sterling at £29 7s. 6d. to £29 10s., compares with £30 2s. 6d. to £30 5s. a week ago. Stocks of refined copper in British official warehouses at the end of last week, at 21,021 tons, show an increase of 726 tons, while stocks of rough copper, at 744 tons, are 175 tons smaller.

LEAD.—The market in lead has been a little steadier both in New York and London. According to the Metallgesellschaft A.G., the average daily world output during February, at 3,457 metric tons, shows a reduction of 47 tons per day on January. In New York the metal was quoted at 3·00 cents per lb. on Wednesday, against 3·00 cents a week ago, and 3·15 cents a month ago. Wednesday's official closing quotation for "soft foreign" in London, in terms of sterling at £11 per ton for shipment during the current month, compares with £10 16s. 3d. on the corresponding day last week.

SPELTER.—Mainly owing to the reserve of sellers, the London quotation for spelter advanced steadily from Monday to Wednesday. The market in New York remained steady. Wednesday's quotation iu New York, at 2·80 cents per lb., compares with 2·80 cents a week ago and 2·80 cents a month earlier. Wednesday's official closing quotation in London, in terms of sterling for "good ordinary brands," was £11 2s. 6d. per ton for shipment during the current month, against £11 11s. 3d. a week ago.

OTHER NON-FERROUS METALS.—Among other non-ferrous metals, the quotations for aluminium and nickel have been maintained at £95 per ton and £220–£225 per ton respectively. Foreign antimony declined from £27–£27 10s. to £26 10s.–£27. Quicksilver was quoted at £17 10s. per flask, against £17 10s.–£18 a week ago. Platinum was again sold at £10 6s. per ounce.

TEXTILES.

THE COTTON TRADE.—**Liverpool.**—Imports for the week, April 8th to 13th (inclusive), are 65,589 bales, of which 42,112 bales are American, 6,042 Peruvian, 11,092 Egyptian, 138 African, 3,432 East Indian, and 2,773 sundries.

Manchester.—There have been no indications in the market of increased activity. The tone has been rather steadier, but buyers are still restricting their commitments. There is not sufficient confidence in present prices for active buying to take place. A very fair inquiry has come through in piece-goods for India and a miscellaneous business has been done, chiefly for Karachi and Calcutta, in light whites and bleached shirtings. The offtake for China has not been at all important, but occasional lines have been put through in white shirtings for Shanghai and dyed goods have been in demand for Hong Kong. Not more than a sorting-up business has been done for the several minor outlets east and west. Necessary buying has taken place in home trade fabrics. Irregularities in the weaving branch tend to increase, partly owing to more firms making special arrangements with their operatives with regard to wages. A slow feeling has prevailed in the yarn market. The sales in American and Egyptian counts have been less than the production. Prices remain very irregular.

Cotton Prices.

	1932. Mar. 22.		1932. Mar. 30.		1932. April 6.		1932. April 13.		Corresponding Date. 1930.		Corresponding Date. 1931.	
	d.		d.		d.		d.		d.		d.	
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ...... per lb.	5·33		4·94		4·79		[illegible]		[illegible]		5·60	
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .... per lb.	7·25		6·80		6·70		6·50		13·80		8·80	
Yarns—32's twist .... per lb.	9¼		8¾		8¾		8¾		12¼		9¼	
" 40's weft .... per lb.	9¾		9½		9½		9½		13		9⅝	
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ...... per lb.	15		14½		14½		14		21½		16½	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	18	0	17	6	17	3	17	3	22	0	18	3
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	20	3	19	9	19	4½	19	4½	24	9	20	0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	11	1	10	10	10	8	10	8	13	6	11	3
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb.	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	2

THE WOOL TRADE.—**Bradford.**—The opening of the third series of London sales, writes our correspondent, was quiet and disappointing. The basis on which tops have been sold in Bradford during the interval made it a foregone conclusion that all descriptions of wool would be cheaper, for within the past month merinos and fine crossbreds have declined fully ½d. per lb. Lower qualities have also moved in buyers' favour, particularly medium. It is noteworthy that there are big supplies of wool to be handled. In Australia alone there are 400,000 bales available for sale before the end of the season. It is not likely that there will be any big surplus of merinos, though this series in London there are larger offerings of Capes which have come to that centre because of the unsatisfactory prices realisable in South African primary markets. The opening decline at Coleman Street amounted to 5 per cent. in merinos, and fully 10 per cent. in crossbreds. The offerings have been disposed of fairly well, but prices are obviously disappointing. There has not yet been any important move in Bradford. A big consumption of merino wool is proceeding, but it is extremely difficult to find outlets for anything below 50's. Prices for tops are again easier.

THE JUTE TRADE.—**Dundee.**—Most prices in the jute industry have suffered a fall since last report. The Calcutta goods market displayed considerable weakness owing to lack of demand. Buyers are interested to see how matters will develop in connection with the efforts of the Indian Jute Mills' Association to get the non-associated mills to work more in accordance with the reduced hours which they are working in order to limit production to meet lessened demand. The non-associated mills are working as long as they please meantime, extending in some cases to 108 hours per week, compared with the 40 hours per week by the mills in the Association. Meetings are being held by the two parties, which comprise approximately 58,000 looms working to the association timetable and 3,000 looms working longer hours. The result of the negotiations is eagerly awaited. The new jute crop reports have been very unsatisfactory recently, lack of rain holding up sowings and the process of weeding where such was in progress. Sellers are not offering freely, but otherwise the unfavourable crop reports are having no effect on the situation. Spinners here are very apathetic as regards further purchasing of the fibre. They have no inducement to buy owing to the dull state of trade. Offers are made of Fuji-M First Mark at £18 12s. 6d., Asahi Lightning at £18, Mitsui Daisee assortment at £16 10s. and Mitsui Tossa-4 at £16 12s. 6d., April-May shipment. The full group of Daisee assortment is nominal at £15 15s. Small lots of jute yarns are being bought at 1s. 10d. for common 8 lb. cops and 1s. 11d. for 8 lb. spools. These rates disclose a heavy loss for spinners, yet buyers are attempting to further depress the market by offering 1s. 9d. and 1s. 10d. respectively. They are, however, meeting with no success, as spinners declare that they would rather close down altogether than submit to further reductions. Twist is firm at from 3½d. to 3¾d. for 3-ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns are quoted at 2½d. for 24 lb. weft and 3½d. for 8 lb. chains. Rove rules quiet at £19 for 48 lb. and £16 10s. for 200 lb., while fine yarns are neglected at 2s. 8d. for second quality 8 lb. Rio warp, 2s. 4d. for third, and 2s. 2d. for fourth. Carpet 14 lb. warp is at 3½d. Trifling orders for jute cloth constitute the business passing, and manufacturers are anxious to secure more work for their looms. They are, however, not inclined to give further concessions, and offers to purchase at under 2$\frac{13}{16}$d. for 10½ oz. 40 in. and 1⅞d. for 8 oz. are being refused. Inquiry has been on a larger scale this week, but buyers still hesitate to purchase more than their immediate needs. An improvement is noticeable in the volume of business placed for linoleum hessians, and one work at least has been able to increase its production. Sacking, bagging and tarpauling are quiet. Calcutta goods became steadier last week-end, but the position is again rather quieter and under the best prices reached.

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

WHEAT.—During the past week the international wheat situation has improved further. Business was on a larger scale, as substantial quantities have been purchased by Continental countries. At this time of the year markets are largely under the influence of crop reports, and the advance during the last few days is partly ascribed to unfavourable news. Thus, the United States Department of Agriculture estimated the winter wheat crop at 453,000,000 bushels, against an actual production of 787,000,000 bushels in 1930–31. This low estimate is partly a result of the reduction in acreage from 42·0 million acres to 38·6 million cares, but in addition, the yield per acre is expected to be considerably lower, owing to considerable winter-kill. As the area under spring wheat is normally only about one-half of the winter wheat area, the total United States crop for 1931–32 is expected to be considerably lower than a year ago. Further, considerable winter damage is reported from Central and South Eastern Europe. On Wednesday, "May" futures were quoted at 59¼ cents per bushel in Chicago, against 56 cents on the corresponding day last week, and 55¾ cents a month ago. Quotations in London, Wednesday: No. 1 Northern Manitoba, Vancouver, ex ship, 33s. per 496 lbs., as compared with 32s. 6d. a week ago; No. 2 Northern Manitoba, Vancouver, ex ship, 31s., against 30s. 3d.; No. 3 Northern Manitoba, Vancouver, ex ship, 30s., against 29s.; Russian, on sample, 27s. to 28s. 6d., against 26s. to 27s. 6d.; Australian, ex ship, 28s. 9d. to 29s., against 28s. to 28s. 6d. a week ago.

WHEAT FLOUR.—The export trade in wheat has been on a small scale during the past week, but quotations have been advanced in sympathy with the rise in wheat prices. North American shipments, at 141,000 sacks, showed a decrease of 1,000 sacks as compared with the previous week. Of this total, only 28,000 sacks have been consigned to Europe. Quotations in London, Wednesday: Straight run, delivered country, 26s. per sack of 280 lbs., as compared with 26s. last week; delivered London, 25s., against 25s. Manitoba patents, ex store, 25s. 6d. to 28s., against 25s. 6d. to 28s.; and Australian, ex store, 21s. to 22s., against 20s. 6d. to 22s. a week ago.

BARLEY.—Business in barley has been on a small scale. Offers of this grain are none too plentiful, and prices for feeding barley are relatively higher than those of maize. On Wednesday, "May" futures were quoted at 41¼ cents per bushel in Winnipeg, against 41¼ cents last week and 43⅜ cents a month ago. Quotations in London, Wednesday: "English feeding," f.o.r., per 448 lbs., 27s. to 28s., as compared with 27s .to 28s.; Russian, landed, 23s. 6d. per 400 lbs., against 23s. to 24s. a week ago.

OATS.—Foreign oats are still little in demand in this country, but Continental countries are buying substantial quantities, par-

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

Imports (Value C.I.F.).

	Month ended March 31. 1931.	Month ended March 31. 1932.	Three Months ended March 31. 1931.	Three Months ended March 31. 1932.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	4,478,022	5,244,199	11,829,993	14,118,993
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	419,864	677,430	1,247,541	1,870,881
C. Meat	7,341,712	7,160,998	23,069,569	19,901,459
D. Animals, living, for food	1,214,273	1,063,796	3,876,573	3,441,526
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	13,379,337	11,826,023	41,682,778	40,879,499
F. Other food and drink, dutiable	4,716,793	4,312,990	13,553,577	13,768,312
G. Tobacco	976,948	661,082	3,475,831	1,865,384
Total, Class I.	32,526,949	30,946,518	98,735,862	95,846,054
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	2,166	2,814	7,609	7,123
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	373,305	309,639	1,029,265	1,012,538
C. Iron ore and scrap	222,414	227,942	657,518	574,934
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	557,710	618,744	1,891,563	1,770,809
E. Wood and timber	1,113,202	1,249,684	4,337,253	3,967,765
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	2,706,331	3,766,516	7,549,310	8,720,850
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	3,691,864	4,499,134	11,548,334	11,882,236
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	119,294	167,090	355,363	361,983
I. Other textile materials	572,952	660,095	2,012,756	2,979,509
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins and gums	2,465,976	1,889,408	6,857,540	6,862,833
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,036,073	1,482,333	3,383,948	4,631,603
L. Paper-making materials	726,784	688,032	2,281,205	2,794,392
M. Rubber	616 713	224,309	1,854,376	816,176
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	861,248	725,131	2,437,641	2,452,265
Total, Class II.	15,066,032	16,510,871	46,203,681	48,835,016
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	353	415	3,987	5,358
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	721,477	323,425	2,060,468	1,319,892
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,545,274	821,408	4,513,065	3,485,543
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,909,247	1,346,483	5,153,667	4,838,608
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	513,205	300,755	1,546,341	876,474
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	396,000	159,955	1,231,046	691,689
G. Machinery	1,245,638	857,670	3,563,928	3,331,876
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	575,103	540,466	1,679,454	1,861,744
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	736,861	77,883	2,058,098	308,783
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,206,601	145,881	3,181,008	500,173
K. Silk and silk manufactures	899,139	439,058	2,503,350	1,150,709
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,269,314	887,061	3,561,209	2,586,372
M. Apparel	1,950,629	591,721	5,132,211	1,910,888
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	1,142,848	814,798	3,065,008	3,155,019
O. Oils, fats, and resins manufactured	2,889,282	2,380,496	8,269,204	8,061,042
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,032,486	622,851	2,958,863	2,790,660
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,160,006	955,154	3,381,514	3,372,798
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	432,002	384,325	1,185,448	855,987
S. Rubber manufactures	338,275	161,791	792,031	446,883
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,310,415	1,209,294	6,420,702	4,934,100
Total, Class III.	22,274,155	13,030,890	62,260,602	46,484,598
IV.—Animals, not for food	218,981	225,185	876,936	678,211
V.—Parcel Post, non-dutiable articles	515,468	405,950	1,722,964	1,571,855
Total	70,601,585	61,119,414	209,800,045	193,415,734

Exports of Produce and Manufactures of the United Kingdom (Value F.O.B.).

	Month ended March 31 1931.	Month ended March 31 1932.	Three Months ended March 31. 1931.	Three Months ended March 31. 1932.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	326,697	387,283	822,173	909,908
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	181,932	181,564	607,522	517,491
C. Meat	108,060	84,846	334,844	258,410
D. Animals, living, for food	17,394	8,535	51,983	26,184
E. & F. Other food and drink	1,832,121	1,613,793	6,082,115	5,402,721
G. Tobacco	530,472	389,304	1,605,560	1,106,894
Total, Class I.	2,996,676	2,665,325	9,504,197	8,281,616
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	2,890,945	2,318,280	8,325,269	7,499,641
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	93,914	87,571	253,591	219,393
C. Iron ore and scrap	26,034	15,429	120,371	47,322
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	24,676	41,352	94,908	112,042
E. Wood and timber	15,542	10,440	59,489	30,710
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	24,875	51,916	70,935	138,862
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	286,065	278,561	707,165	901,588
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	671	1,416	2,333	4,599
I. Other textile materials	10,064	20,098	30,039	72,963
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	244,956	193,112	690,131	484,077
K. Hides and skins, undressed	87,882	62,107	268,724	159,849
L. Paper-making materials	73,318	62,382	184,842	165,754
M. Rubber	6,946	13,397	27,135	35,770
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	306,856	302,131	805,956	747,338
Total, Class II.	4,092,744	3,458,192	11,640,788	10,619,905
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	231,529	180,672	804,103	712,461
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	687,043	620,028	2,048,910	1,791,008
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	2,751,872	2,557,742	8,018,105	7,135,040
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	623,196	565,739	2,038,061	1,546,523
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	451,618	430,161	1,317,231	1,259,022
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	772,970	490,048	2,293,930	1,424,569
G. Machinery	2,873,654	2,651,363	8,827,063	7,921,983
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	129,601	141,363	362,695	339,529
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	4,882,276	5,861,460	15,224,362	16,672,302
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	2,092,359	2,017,966	7,430,872	6,612,940
K. Silk and silk manufactures	107,038	79,671	286,774	234,110
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,133,243	1,164,269	3,467,762	3,271,940
M. Apparel	1,449,552	1,205,145	3,849,675	3,172,850
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	1,396,693	1,544,934	4,305,980	4,282,192
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	408,895	385,586	1,417,553	1,238,019
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	271,185	249,846	798,396	710,433
Q. Paper and cardboard	496,504	539,627	1,588,083	1,600,234
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships and aircraft)	2,814,373	1,471,556	8,254,007	4,442,008
S. Rubber manufactures	197,257	175,294	539,682	458,501
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	1,873,495	1,829,703	5,526,150	5,375,972
Total, Class III.	25,644,353	24,162,173	78,399,394	70,201,636
IV.—Animals, not for food	82,097	36,472	240,541	152,341
V.—Parcel Post	1,173,621	874,137	3,561,246	3,075,525
Total	33,989,491	31,198,299	103,346,166	92,330,922

[illegible] from Argentina. "May" futures, which last week stood at 24 cents per bushel in Chicago, sold at 23¾ cents per bushel on Wednesday this week, against 24¾ cents a month ago. Quotations in London, Tuesday: "River Plate," landed, 18s. 3d. per 320 lbs., as compared with 17s. 9d. last week; "River Plate," ex ship, 17s. 3d., against 16s. 9d.; "Chilean White," landed, 26s., against 26s. a week ago.

MAIZE.—Business in maize has been on a small scale during the past week, but prices were generally maintained. Wednesday's quotation in Chicago for "May" futures, at 34¼ cents, shows a decrease of 1 cent on last week, and a fall of 5½ cents as compared with the price a month earlier. Quotations in London, Wednesday: "Plate," landed, 21s. 6d. per 480 lbs., compared with 21s. 6d. last week; "Plate," ex ship, 20s. 9d., as against 20s. 9d.; "Plate," April-May, 19s. 9d., as against 19s. 3d. Yellow maize meal, ex wharf, was quoted at £6 per ton, against £6 a week ago.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.—The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1931-32, 1930-31, 1929-30, 1928-29:—

	1931-1932.	1930-1931.	1929-1930.	1928-1929.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to April 9	76,207	98,603	155,042	119,087
Cumulative to April 9	[illegible]	3,779,[illegible]	7,679,907	6,[illegible]
[illegible]	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	6 6	5 3	8 7	9 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1928 to 1931:—

Weeks ended	Quantities Sold. Wheat.	Quantities Sold. Barley.	Quantities Sold. Oats.	Average Price per Cwt. Wheat.	Average Price per Cwt. Barley.	Average Price per Cwt. Oats.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Apr. 2, 1932	111,390	51,510	31,694	6 1	7 11	7 5
Apr. 9, 1932	76,207	51,508	30,756	6 0	8 0	7 3
Apr. 7, 1928	184,215	61,630	32,946	10 1	11 0	11 2
Apr. 6, 1929	135,452	81,470	41,297	9 9	10 1	9 6
Apr. 12, 1930	155,042	113,678	29,994	8 7	7 10	6 3
Apr. 11, 1931	98,603	43,154	29,212	5 3	8 1	6 0

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.—The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1930:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 2, 1931.	April 15, 1931.	Jan. 4, 1932.	April 6, 1932.	April 13, 1932.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba)—Cents per 60 lb.	148⅜	56⅛	63⅝	62⅜	63⅛	64
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)—Cents per 60 lb.	130⅜	79⅝	83⅜	55⅜	56	59¼

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

GRAIN, &c.—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wheat—				
No. 2, N. Man. 496 lb.	31	0		
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	6	0		
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	8	0		
Oats, „ „	7	3		
Maize, La Plata, landed 480 lb.	21	6		
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, 280 lb.	23	9		
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	8	10½		
Tapioca, per cwt.—				
Fine Java, spot	27	0		
Fair Flake, Singapore..	10	6		
MEAT—				
Beef, per 8 lbs.—				
English long sides	5	2	5	10
Argentine chilled hinds	4	6	4	10
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—				
English wethers	3	8	5	4
N.Z. frozen „	2	8	3	6
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	5	0	5	4

OTHER FOODS.

BACON—				
Irish ..... per cwt.	84	0		
Danish.....	47	0	49	0
Dutch	46	0		
HAMS—				
Canadian.....	74	0		
American	70	0	72	0
BUTTER—				
Australian	106	0	108	0
New Zealand	107	0	110	0
Danish.....	117	0	118	0
CHEESE—				
Canadian ..... per cwt.	68	0	72	0
New Zealand	63	0		
English Cheddars	94	0	110	0
Dutch	45	0	55	0
COCOA—				
(Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Accra, f.f. .....per cwt.	24	0	29	0
Trinidad	40	0	48	0
Grenada	33	0	39	0
COFFEE—				
(Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Santos supr., c. & f. cwt.	59	0		
Colombian, good	72	0	92	0
Costa Rica, med. to good	78	0	115	0
East Indian „ „ „	88	0	118	0
Kenya, medium	82	0	105	0
EGGS—				
English .....per 120	9	9	10	3
Danish.....	9	0	9	6
FRUIT—				
Oranges—				
South African ...boxes		...		
Jaffa	13	0	16	9
Lemons, Sicilian ...boxes	10	0	15	0
„ .....cases	10	0	20	0
Malaga ...cases 420 No. 1		...		
Apples: Amer.(var.) brls.	24	0	30	0
„ (var.) boxes	8	0	12	0
„ Australian	8	0	16	6
Onions:—				
Valencia, cases, 4s.		...		
Egyptian Bags.....	13	0	13	6
Grapes, Lisbon ... boxes		...		
„ Almeria .....brls.		...		

LARD—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Irish bladders.....	60	0	74	0
American, boxes, 56 lbs.	39	0	41	0
POTATOES—				
Good English, per cwt.	12	0	12	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	0	7		
Black Lampong	0	6½		
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	0	7½		
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	8		
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	24	0		
Jamaica, ord. to good...	55	0	85	0
Mace .....per lb.	0	8	1	9
Nutmegs 65s	1	5		
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.).				
B.W.I., crystallised	18	0	20	6
Java, white, c. & f. India March-April.....	7	7½		
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	17	7½		
Cubes.....	22	0	22	6
Crushed	20	0	20	6
Granulated	18	1½	18	10½
Home Grown	17	9	18	0
TEA—				
Indian—per lb.—				
Pekoe	0	6	1	4½
Broken Pekoe	0	6½	2	3½
Orange Pekoe	0	6½	1	6½
Broken Orange Pekoe....	0	6½	2	5½
Ceylon—per lb.—				
Pekoe	0	7	2	10
Broken Pekoe	0	7½	2	3
Orange Pekoe	0	9	2	9
Broken Orange	0	9	3	2½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 9/6-10/6½ per lb., Empire growths, 7/5½-8/3½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	3	0
Rhodesian leaf	0	10	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	6
„ stripe	0	10	1	8
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
„ stripe	0	5½	1	3
COTTON— TEXTILES.				
Mid-American ..... per lb.		4·91		
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.		6·50		
Yarns, 32's twist		8½		
„ 60's twist		14		
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	46	0		
Pernau HD	44	0		
Slanetz Medium 1st sort....	50	0		
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. .....per ton	42	0		
Manila, Mar.-May "J 2"	12	10		
Sisal, African, Mar.-May	13	10	14	10
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks. ... per ton c.i.f. H.A.B.B.				
April-May		£16/15/0		
Daisee 2/3 c.i.f. Dundee...				
April-May		£15/15/0		
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton .....per lb.	7	6	9	6
Tussah	4	0	5	0
Japan	7	0	9	6
Italian—raw, fr. Milan	9	0	11	6

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	13
„ Lincoln hog, washed	7
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	18½
N.S.W. greasy, super „	10
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50-56	9½
Tops— Crossbred 40-44	5
Merinos 70's	22½
„ 64's	21½
Crossbred 48's	10
„ 46's	9

COAL— MINERALS.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty ...ton	19	6		
Durham, best gas, f.o.b. Tyne	14	6		
Sheffield, best house, at pits	21	0	22	0

IRON AND STEEL—		
Pig, Cleveland No. 3, ton	5 8	6
Bars, M'brough 200	0	
Steel Rails, heavy 170	0	
Tin Plates, per box 16	0	
METALS—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	34/0/0	34/15/0
Sheets (strong).....	63/0/0	
Standard.....	29/7/6	29/10/0
Lead Eng. Pig. ...per ton	12/0/0	
Soft Foreign	11/0/0	
Spelter G.O.B.	11/2/6	
Tin—English ingots 105/10/0		
Standard cash 103/7/6		103/12/6

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	1½	1	1½
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2	1	2½
Alcohol, Plain Ethyl.....	13	0	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. .....ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	7	0	7	10
Arsenic, lump ..... per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	13	0		
Do. powder	14	6		
Nitrate of Soda ... per cwt.	9	0	9	6
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3½	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. ..... per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate of Copper, per ton	18	10	19	10
CEMENT, London—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton In jute sacks (11 to ton)	44	9	46	9
In free paper bags (20 to ton)	46	0	48	0
COPRA—	£	s.	d.	
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton	15	5	0	
Smoked South Sea	13	17	6	
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined ... per lb.	2	7	2	8
Castor-oil ..... per lb.	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha .....per lb.	5	3		
Peppermint, Wayne Co.				
HIDES— per lb.	9	3	9	6
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	5½
„ West Indian	0	0	0	3
„ Cape	0	3½	0	3½
Dry and Dryalted Cape...	0	5	0	6

Market Hides, London—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Best heavy ox and bullock	0	5½	0	6
Best cow	0	5½	0	6
Best calf	0	6½		
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. rod.-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	0	1	2
Bark Tanned Sole	1	0	1	0
Shoulders tn D8 Hides	0	6	0	8
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8	1	2
Bellies from D8 do.	0	8	1	2
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	4	0	5
Dressing Hides.....	0	5	0	8
Bo. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	1	0	1	6
Aust. Bends	1	6	1	6
	1	0	1	4½
VEGETABLE OILS—			£	
Linseed, naked, p. ton net			13	15 0
Rape, refined			21	0 0
Cotton-seed, crude			20	0 0
Coconut, crude.....			25	0 0
Palm.....			15	7 6
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton			7	5 0
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton—				
April-May			7	7 6
Calcutta—per ton—			10	5 0
			s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....			54	9
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—			s.	d.
Motor spirit, No. 1, London ..... per gal.			1	3½
Petroleum, Amer. ref. brl. London per gal.				3 3½
Fuel oil, in bulk, for contracts, ex instal., Thames—				
Furnace ... per ton			60	0
Diesel „ „			67	6
Lubricating oil ex store, London—per ton—			£	£
Pales			18	0 0 25 0
Reds			11	0 0 17 0
Cylinder			11	0 0 30 0
ROSIN—			£	s. d. £ s. d.
American .....per ton			1	1 0 1 2 0
RUBBER—			s.	d. s. d.
St. ribbed smoked sheet per lb.			0	11 3 1
Fine Hard Para per lb.			0	3
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ..... per cwt.			60	0 62 6
SHELLS—			£	s. £ s.
W. Aust. M. c.-P. „			5	0 14 0
TALLOW—			s.	d.
London Town per cwt.			22	0
TIMBER—			£	s. d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.			17	0 0
„ 2½ x 7 „			16	0 0
„ 2 x 4 „			15	0 0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis „			24	0 0
Pitchpine .....per load			9	0 0
Rio Deals ..... per std.			28	0 0
Teak ..... per load			30	0 0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.			0	10 6
African „			0	5 0
Amer. Oak Boards „			0	5 0
„ Ash „			0	7 0
English Oak Planks „			0	6 6
„ Ash „			0	7 6

The visible supply of wheat in Canada, at 65,667,000 bushels, shows an increase on the week of 871,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 65,991,000 bushels.

OTHER FOODS.

SUGAR.—The international raw sugar situation has not been strengthened during the past week. Markets were subjected to heavy liquidation, followed by a further weakening in prices. "May" futures in New York were quoted at 0·60 cent per lb. on Wednesday, against 0·65 cent per lb. a week ago, and 0·73 cent per lb. a month earlier. Wednesday's sales of "raws" include "May delivery" at 3s. 11d. to 3s. 11½d. per cwt., against 4s. 1½d. to 4s. 4d., and "December," at 4s. 7½d. to 4s. 10d., against 4s. 10½d. to 4s. 11½d. on the corresponding day last week. The movements of raw sugar in London and Liverpool during last week are set out in the table below:—

	Imports.		Deliveries.		Stocks.	
	1932. Tons.	1931. Tons.	1932. Tons.	1931. Tons.	1932. Tons.	1931. Tons.
London	1,622	300	893	1,004	6,195	32,226
Liverpool	9,169	12,569	14,093	14,469	91,447	81,088
Total	10,791	12,869	14,986	15,473	97,642	113,314
Last week	25,239	12,774	16,067	11,995	101,837	115,918

COFFEE.—Prices of coffee in New York have advanced further during the past week. Demand for outstanding qualities was strong at the London auctions, while other varieties remained firm. Last week's movements of coffee in London were as follows: Brasilian, landed, 2 bags; delivered for home consumption, 66 bags; exported, nil; stocks, 5,724 bags, against 2,493 bags last year. Central American, landed, 11,293 packages; delivered for home consumption, 4,013; exported, 1,066; stocks, 115,730 packages, against 111,289 a year ago. Other kinds, landed, 3,023 packages; delivered for home consumption, 2,934; exported, 352; stocks, 197,296 packages, against 103,778 a year ago.

COCOA.—Business in cocoa was on a small scale, and prices were generally easier. "May" futures were quoted at 4·05 cents per lb. in New York on Wednesday, against 4·12 cents per lb. a week ago and 4·44 cents a month ago. As compared with the corresponding day last week, Wednesday's quotation for Accra, fair fermented, new crop, April-May, at 23s. 6d. per cwt. f.o.b., London contract, shows a fall of 1s. per cwt. on the week. Last week's movements of cocoa in London were as follows: Landed, 15,255 bags; delivered for home consumption, 4,717 bags; exported, 21; stocks, 188,898 bags, as against 218,141 last year.

TEA.—The quantities catalogued for this week's auction comprise 50,644 packages of Indian, 27,870 packages of Ceylon, and 21,284 packages of Java and Sumatra tea. Monday's Indian auctions opened rather weaker, but on Tuesday competition for Ceylon teas was keen. This improvement was maintained on Wednesday, when Indian tea was again on offer. The following table shows the average prices (compiled by the Tea Brokers' Association) of tea sold in Mincing Lane on Garden Account:—

AVERAGE PRICE PER LB.

Week ending	Northern India.	Southern India.	Ceylon.	Java.	Sumatra.	Nyasaland.	Total.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 31, 1931	0 11·04	1 1·03	1 5·18	...	...	0 9·35	1 1·09
Mar. 10, „	0 11·63	0 10·78	1 1·81	0 7·66	0 7·35	0 7·35	0 11·16
Mar. 16, „	0 10·82	0 9·92	1 3·12	...	...	0 6·34	1 0·01
Mar. 22, „	0 10·88	0 9·32	1 3·87	0 7·39	0 6·88	0 6·89	0 10·69
Apr. 6, „	0 10·17	0 10·41	1 4·34	...	...	0 7·13	1 0·15

RICE.—The market in rice has been a little steadier. Wednesday's "spot" price at 10s. per cwt., shows no change, while forward positions at 8s. 10½d. remained also unaltered. Movements in London during the past week were as follows: Landed, 80 tons; delivered, 55 tons; stocks, 843 tons, as against 608 tons last year.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

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OPERATING RESULTS

	1931	Comparison with 1930 Increase or Decrease
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES were	$448,090,279	D$122,375,081
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES were	352,865,931	D 74,317,250
LEAVING NET REVENUE of	95,224,348	D$ 48,057,831
TAXES amounted to	29,969,737	D 5,692,019
EQUIPMENT, JOINT FACILITY RENTS, etc., amounted to	14,198,805	D 1,240,061
LEAVING NET RAILWAY OPERATING INCOME of	$ 51,055,806	D 41,125,751
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS AND OTHER SOURCES amounted to	48,036,336	D 7,230,341
MAKING GROSS INCOME of	$ 99,092,142	D$ 48,356,092
RENTAL PAID LEASED LINES, INTEREST ON FUNDED DEBT AND OTHER CHARGES amounted to	79,546,948	I 908,532
LEAVING NET INCOME (Equal to 2.97 % of Capital Stock)	$ 19,545,194	D$ 49,264,624

Dividends of 6½% were paid to the stockholders, part of which was charged to Profit and Loss Account.

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Notwithstanding extremely adverse business conditions prevailing during the year 1931, the results accomplished by the Pennsylvania Railroad, while not satisfactory, were better than those attained by railroads generally and reflect credit upon the loyalty and fortitude of the officers and the employes.

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W. W. ATTERBURY,
President

Philadelphia, Pa., April 4th, 1932

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

The prices in the following list are revised with the assistance of an eminent firm in each department.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

GRAIN, &c.—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wheat—				
No. 2, N. Man. 496 lb.	31	0		
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	6	0		
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.	8	0		
Oats, " "	7	3		
Maize, La Plata, landed 480 lb.	21	6		
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, 280 lb.	23	9		
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	8	10½		
Tapioca, per cwt.—				
Fine Java, spot	27	0		
Fair Flake, Singapore	10	6		
MEAT—				
Beef, per 8 lbs.—				
English long sides	5	2	5	10
Argentine chilled hinds	4	6	4	10
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—				
English wethers	3	8	5	4
N.Z. frozen "	2	8	3	6
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	5	0	5	4

OTHER FOODS.

BACON—				
Irish per cwt.	84	0		
Danish	47	0	49	0
Dutch	46	0		
HAMS—				
Canadian	74	0		
American	70	0	72	0
BUTTER—				
Australian	106	0	108	0
New Zealand	107	0	110	0
Danish	117	0	118	0
CHEESE—				
Canadian per cwt.	68	0	72	0
New Zealand	63	0		
English Cheddars	94	0	110	0
Dutch	45	0	55	0
COCOA—				
(Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Accra, f.f. per cwt.	24	0	29	0
Trinidad	40	0	48	0
Grenada	33	0	39	0
COFFEE—				
(Duty, British grown, 11s. 8d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.).				
Santos supr., c. & f. cwt.	59	0		
Colombian, good	72	0	92	0
Costa Rica, med. to good	78	0	115	0
Best Indian " " "	88	0	118	0
Kenya, medium	82	0	105	0
EGGS—				
English per 120	9	9	10	3
Danish	9	0	9	6
FRUIT—				
Oranges—				
South African boxes		...		
Jaffa	13	0	16	9
Lemons, Sicilian boxes	10	0	15	0
" cases	10	0	20	0
Malaga cases 420 No. 1		...		
Apples: Amer.(var.) brls.	24	0	30	0
" (var.) boxes	8	0	12	0
" Australian	8	0	16	6
Onions:—				
Valencia, case, 4s.		...		
Egyptian Bags	13	0	13	6
Grapes, Lisbon boxes		...		
" Almeria brls.		...		

LARD—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Irish bladders	60	0	74	0
American, boxes, 56 lbs.	39	0	41	0
POTATOES—				
Good English, per cwt.	12	0	12	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	0	7		
Black Lampong	0	6½		
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	0	7½		
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	8		
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	24	0		
Jamaica, ord. to good	55	0	85	0
Mace per lb.	0	8	1	9
Nutmegs 65s	1	5		
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.).				
B.W.I., crystallised	18	0	20	6
Java, white, c. & f. India March-April	7	7½		
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	17	7½		
Cubes	22	0	22	6
Crushed	20	0	20	6
Granulated	18	1½	18	10½
Home Grown	17	9	18	0
TEA—				
Indian—per lb.—				
Pekoe	0	6	1	4½
Broken Pekoe	0	6½	2	3½
Orange Pekoe	0	6½	1	6½
Broken Orange Pekoe	0	6½	2	5½
Ceylon—per lb.—				
Pekoe	0	7	2	10
Broken Pekoe	0	7½	2	3
Orange Pekoe	0	9	2	9
Broken Orange	0	9	3	2½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 9/6–10/6½ per lb., Empire growths, 7/5½–8/3½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	3	0
Rhodesian leaf	0	10	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	6
" strips	0	10	1	8
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
" strips	0	5½	1	3

COTTON—	TEXTILES.			
Mid-American per lb.		4·91		
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.		6·50		
Yarns, 32's twist			8½	
" 60's twist			14	
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK per ton	46	0		
Pernau HD	44	0		
Slanets Medium 1st sort	50	0		
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. per ton	42	0		
Manila, Mar.–May "J 2"	18	10		
Sisal, African, Mar.–May	13	10	14	10
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks. ... per ton c.i.f. H.A.B.B. April–May			£16/15/0	
Dalsee 2/3 c.i.f. Dundee April–May			£15/15/0	

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton per lb.	7	6	9	6
Tussah	4	0	5	0
Japan	7	0	9	6
Italian—raw, fr. Milan	9	0	11	6

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	12
" Lincoln hog, washed	7
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	18½
N.S.W. greasy, super "	10
N.Z., gray., half-bred 50–56	9½
Tops— Crossbred 40–44	5
Merinos 70's	22½
" 64's	21½
Crossbred 48's	10
" 46's	9

COAL— MINERALS.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty ...ton	19	6		
Durham, best gas, f.o.b. Tyne	14	6		
Sheffield, best house, at pits	21	0	22	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No. 3, ton	58	6		
Bars, M'brough	200	0		
Steel Rails, heavy	170	0		
Tin Plates, per box	16	0		

METALS—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	34	0	0	34	15	0
Sheets (strong)	63	0	0			
Standard	29	7	6	29	10	0
Lead Eng. Pig. ...per ton	12	0	0			
Soft Foreign	11	0	0			
Spelter G.O.B.	11	2	6			
Tin—English ingots	105	10	0			
Standard cash	103	7	6	103	12	6

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	1½	1	1½
Nitric	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2	1	2½
Alcohol, Plain Ethyl	13	0	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	7	0	7	10
Arsenic, lump per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. per cwt.	13	0		
Do. powder	14	6		
Nitrate of Soda per cwt.	9	0	9	6
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3½	0	3½
Sulphate per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate of Copper, per ton	18	10	19	10

CEMENT, London—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton				
In jute sacks (11 to ton)	44	9	46	9
In free paper bags (20 to ton)	46	0	48	0

COPRA—	£	s.	d.
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton	15	5	0
Smoked South Sea	13	17	6

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined per lb.	2	7	2	8
Castor-oil per lb.	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha per lb.	5	3		
Peppermint, Wayne Co.				
HIDES— per lb.	9	3	9	6
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	5½
West Indian	0	0	0	3
Cape	0	3½	0	3½
Dry and Drysalted Cape	0	5	0	6

Market Hides, London—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Best heavy ox and bullr	0	3½	0	4½
Best cow	0	2½		
Best calf	0	6½		
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red.-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	0	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	0	3	0
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	6	0	8
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8	1	2
Bellies from DS do.	0	4	0	5
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	5	0	8
Dressing Hides	1	0	1	6
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	2	6	3	6
Aust. Bends	1	0	1	4½

VEGETABLE OILS—	£
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	13/15/0
Rape, refined	27/0/0
Cotton-seed, crude	20/0/0
Coconut, crude	26/0/0
Palm	15/7/6
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	7/5/0
Oil Seeds—Linseed—	
La Plata, p. ton— April–May	7/12/6
Calcutta—per ton—	10/5/0

	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.	54	9

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—	s.	d.
Motor spirit, No. 1, London per gal.	1	3½
Petroleum, Amer. std. brl. London per gal.	0	9½
Fuel oil, in bulk, for contracts, ex instal., Thames—		
Furnace ... per ton	60	0
Diesel " "	67	6

Lubricating oil ex store, London—per ton—	£	£
Pales	10/0/0	25/7/6
Reds	11/0/0	17/10/0
Cylinder	11/3/6	30/5/0

ROSIN—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
American per ton	13	0/0		23	10/0	
RUBBER—	s.	d.		s.	d.	
St. ribbed smoked sheet per lb.	0	1½		0	1½	
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	3½				

SHELLAC—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
TN Orange per cwt.	60	0		82	6	
SHELLS—	£	s.		£	s.	
W. Aust. M. o.-P. "	5	0		14	0	
TALLOW—	s.	d.				
London Town per cwt.	22	0				

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	17	0	0
" 2½ x 7 "	16	0	0
" 2 x 4 "	15	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis "	24	0	0
Pitchpine per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals per std.	28	0	0
Teak per load	30	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	10	6
African "	0	6	0
Amer. Oak Boards "	0	6	0
" Ash "	0	7	0
English Oak Planks "	0	6	6
" Ash "	0	7	6

The visible supply of wheat in Canada, at 65,667,000 bushels, shows an increase on the week of 871,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 65,991,000 bushels.

OTHER FOODS.

SUGAR.—The international raw sugar situation has not been strengthened during the past week. Markets were subjected to heavy liquidation, followed by a further weakening in prices. "May" futures in New York were quoted at 0·60 cent per lb. on Wednesday, against 0·65 cent per lb. a week ago, and 0·73 cent per lb. a month earlier. Wednesday's sales of "raws" include "May delivery" at 3s. 11d. to 3s. 11½d. per cwt., against 4s. 1½d. to 4s. 4d., and "December," at 4s. 7½d. to 4s. 10d., against 4s. 10½d. to 4s. 11½d. on the corresponding day last week. The movements of raw sugar in London and Liverpool during last week are set out in the table below:—

	Imports.		Deliveries.		Stocks.	
	1932.	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.	1931.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
London	1,622	300	893	1,004	6,195	32,226
Liverpool	9,169	12,569	14,093	14,469	91,447	81,088
Total	10,791	12,869	14,986	15,473	97,642	113,314
Last week	25,239	12,774	16,057	11,995	101,837	115,918

COFFEE.—Prices of coffee in New York have advanced further during the past week. Demand for outstanding qualities was strong at the London auctions, while other varieties remained firm. Last week's movements of coffee in London were as follows: Brazilian, landed, 2 bags; delivered for home consumption, 66 bags; exported, nil; stocks, 5,724 bags, against 2,493 bags last year. Central American, landed, 11,298 packages; delivered for home consumption, 4,013; exported, 1,066; stocks, 115,730 packages, against 111,289 a year ago. Other kinds, landed, 8,023 packages; delivered for home consumption, 2,934; exported, 352; stocks, 197,296 packages, against 108,778 a year ago.

COCOA.—Business in cocoa was on a small scale, and prices were generally easier. "May" futures were quoted at 4·05 cents per lb. in New York on Wednesday, against 4·12 cents per lb. a week ago and 4·44 cents a month ago. As compared with the corresponding day last week, Wednesday's quotation for Accra, fair fermented, new crop, April-May, at 23s. 6d. per cwt. f.o.b., London contract, shows a fall of 1s. per cwt. on the week. Last week's movements of cocoa in London were as follows: Landed, 15,255 bags; delivered for home consumption, 4,717 bags; exported, 21; stocks, 188,898 bags, as against 218,141 last year.

TEA.—The quantities catalogued for this week's auction comprise 50,644 packages of Indian, 27,870 packages of Ceylon, and 21,294 packages of Java and Sumatra tea. Monday's Indian auctions opened rather weaker, but on Tuesday competition for Ceylon teas was keen. This improvement was maintained on Wednesday, when Indian tea was again on offer. The following table shows the average prices (compiled by the Tea Brokers' Association) of tea sold in Mincing Lane on Garden Account:—

AVERAGE PRICE PER LB.

Week ending	Northern India.	Southern India.	Ceylon.	Java.	Sumatra.	Hyson-land.	Total.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 31, 1931	0 11·04	1 1·03	1 5·18	...	...	0 8·38	1 1·89
Mar. 10, "	0 11·43	0 10·78	1 1·81	0 7·66	0 7·25	0 7·25	0 11·15
Mar. 16, "	0 10·82	0 9·92	1 3·12	...	...	0 6·34	1 0·04
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POTATOES.—Although the demand for protatoes at the principal markets was again good, supplies were large enough to prevent a rise in prices. At the Borough Market, "Best King Edward" sold from 12s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt., as compared with 12s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt. a week ago.

SPICES.—The market in spices has been dull, and prices were generally lower. Wednesday's quotation for "Black Singapore" pepper, at 6¼d. per lb., shows no change on the week. Movements of pepper in London during the past week were as follows: Black, landed, 78 tons; delivered, 13 tons; stocks, 370 tons, against 537 tons last year. White, landed, 41 tons; delivered, 38 tons; stocks, 759 tons, against 659 tons a year ago.

MEAT.—Although supplies have been plentiful at the Smithfield Market, the firmer prices of last week have been maintained. Both Argentine and home-grown beef advanced further. On Wednesday, Argentine beef (chilled hindquarters) was sold at 4s. 6d. to 4s. 10d. per 8 lbs., against 4s. 2d. to 4s. 6d. on the corresponding day last week, while New Zealand frozen mutton realised 3s. 8d. to 3s. 6d., as against 2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d. a week ago. According to the Smithfield Market official report, supplies of meat during last week amounted to 9,258 tons, as compared with 8,920 tons in the corresponding week last year. Imported beef, principally Argentine, formed 81·5 per cent. of the supplies, as against 85·7 per cent. a year ago; and imported mutton, mainly New Zealand, formed 80 per cent. of the total supply, as against 85·4 per cent. last year.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.—The week has witnessed some improvement in certain sections, notably linseed and linseed oil, which have rallied and are steadier. The extremely low levels of quotations brought in buyers and some advance in values from £7 15s., which was repeated for Plate on passage to Hull, buyers

SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year ended 31st December, 1931.

To be submitted at the Twenty-third Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Board Room, "Anmercosa House," Johannesburg, on Thursday, 19th May, 1932, at 12 noon.

To the Shareholders,
SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Your Directors beg to submit their Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended the 31st December, 1931, accompanied by the Reports of the Consulting Engineers and the Mine Manager.

CAPITAL.

The Capital of the Company is unaltered at £1,500,000 in shares of £1 each, all fully paid and issued.

PROPERTY.

The position of your Company's holdings at 31st December, 1931, was as follows:—

Mynpacht No. 637, in extent 1,675·693 acres, equal to...	1,140·09	claims.
Railway Area (leased from the Government).....	20·63	"
Discoverer's Rights	171·60	"
Claims on Farm Rietfontein No. 8 (leased from the Government)	2,235·60	"
	3,567·92	claims.

Fourteen freehold stands in Springs Township are owned by the Company.

OPERATIONS.

Technical matters are dealt with in the attached Reports of the Consulting Engineers and Mine Manager, to which your attention is directed.

FINANCE.

	£	s.	d.
From the Working Expenditure and Revenue Account it will be seen that the profit from operations for the year amounted to	831,890	6	2
Deduct— Donations	3,301	8	1
	828,588	18	1
Add— Dividends on Shareholdings, Interest, Commission and Exchange, and Sundry Revenue.....	11,382	7	0
Leaving a net balance of Revenue over Expenditure for the year of	839,971	5	1
Add— Balance to credit of Appropriation Account at 31st December, 1930	61,178	12	7
Making a total available credit of	901,149	17	8

Against which the following amounts have been appropriated:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Government Taxes	76,064	9	3			
Government Participation in Profits ...	154,467	4	0			
Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Act	11,262	6	4			
Dividend No. 24.....	281,250	0	0			
Dividend No. 25.....	300,000	0	0			
Capital Funds.....	5,000	0	0			
				828,043	19	7
Leaving a balance unappropriated at 31st December, 1931, of				£73,105	18	1

The Capital Expenditure for the year amounted to £3,672 16s. 7d., made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Shaft Sinking and Equipment, as per Schedule attached to Balance Sheet	3,529	16	7
Shares and Interests in other concerns	143	0	0
	£3,672	16	7

Your Directors thought it advisable to capitalise a further amount of £5,000 in respect of standard stores and materials on hand, and this amount has been appropriated to the Capital Fund.

The Union Government's participation in the profits of the Company, in terms of the Mineral Lease, is estimated at £154,467 4s. This sum is equivalent to 18·390 per cent. of the total profits of the Company for the year.

Expenditure on development for the year amounted to £110,954 2s. 7d., which has been charged to Working Expenditure and Revenue Account.

In connection with the annual reserve in respect of the Company's liability under the Miners' Phthisis Act, the amount set aside for 1931 is £11,262 6s. 4d. This, with the previous figure of £34,468 9s. 9d. and interest accrued, gives a total reserve of £48,148 5s. 11d., as against the Company's total terminal liability of £155,821 as assessed at the 31st July, 1931.

DIVIDENDS.

Two dividends were declared during the year, as follows:—

	Per Cent.	Rate per Share.	Total Amount.
Dividend No. 24	18¾	3s. 9d.	£281,250 0 0
Dividend No. 25	20	4s. 0d.	300,000 0 0
	38¾	7s. 9d.	£581,250 0 0

DIRECTORATE.

In terms of the Articles of Association, Messrs. L. A. Pollak, M.C., and J. Boyd retire from the Board by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

During the year the death occured of one of your Auditors, Mr. M. Spier, and in terms of the Articles of Association, Mr. J. D. Low was appointed to fill the vacancy thus caused.

You are requested to fix the remuneration for the past audit, and to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. The Auditors, Messrs. A. E. Page and J. D. Low, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

L. A. POLLAK, Chairman.
R. B. HAGART, Deputy-Chairman,
J. BOYD,
W. E. HUDSON,
W. J. O'BRIEN,
F. A. UNGER,
C. WILSON,
} Directors.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, Secretaries
Per W. WESTRUP.

Johannesburg, 8th March, 1932.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1931.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital							By Property, at Cost.....						
Registered and Issued:							Mining Claims and Freehold Stands—						
1,500,000 Shares of £1 each							As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.	308,748	19	6			
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.				1,500,000	0	0	„ Shaft Sinking, Permanent Haulage Ways and Equipment, at Cost	2,543,916	4	11			
„ Premium on Shares.....							(As per attached Schedule.)						
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.				1,122,840	16	5	„ Development, at Cost	242,429	15	4			
„ Funds Appropriated for Expenditure in Excess of Working Capital provided ...							As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.				3,095,094	19	11
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930	521,932	7	6				„ Shares and Interests in Other Concerns at or under Cost.....	12,905	10	6			
For the year ending 31st December, 1931	5,000	0	0				„ Stores and Materials—Standard Stock	30,000	0	0			
				526,932	7	6					42,905	10	6
				3,149,773	3	11	„ Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund carried down				11,772	13	6
„ Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund brought down				11,772	13	6					3,149,773	3	11
„ Sundry Shareholders				301,208	9	9	„ Stores and Materials on Hand and in Transit in Excess of Standard Stock.....				7,476	2	10
Unpaid and Unclaimed Dividends.							General	3,829	3	8			
„ Government of the Union of South Africa							Construction	3,646	19	2			
Taxation under Income Tax Act, 1925	75,692	5	0								21,755	3	9
Participation in Profits under Mineral Lease	154,467	4	0				„ Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances.....				48,148	5	11
				230,159	9	0	„ Reserve Fund Investments (see contra)						
„ Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances.....				84,794	9	5	„ Loans at Call.....	521,428	8	4			
„ Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Act (see contra).....				48,148	5	11	„ Cash at Bankers and in Hand	150,381	5	10			
„ Balance of Appropriation Account				73,105	18	1					671,809	14	3
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES.													
Shares and Interests in other Concerns	£11,981	0	0										
											£3,898,963	9	7

The Company is liable for its proportion of the Miners' Phthisis Compensation Funds in terms of the Miners' Phthisis Acts Consolidation Act, 1925 (vide Directors' Report).

This Balance Sheet is drawn up in South African currency, and the Assets and Liabilities on British sterling have been converted into South African currency at the rate of exchange ruling on the 31st December, 1931, namely, £71 15s. South African currency equals £100 British sterling.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, Secretaries.
Per W. WESTRUP.

L. A. POLLAK, Chairman,
R. B. HAGART, Deputy Chairman,
W. J. O'BRIEN,
} Directors.

To the Shareholders, SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED.

We report that we have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and the audited returns from the London Office, and certify that it is in accordance therewith. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The Company has kept proper Books and records. In our opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

Johannesburg,
3rd March, 1932.

J. D. LOW,
A. E. PAGE (Incorporated Accountants)
} *Auditors.*

paying £7 17s. 6d. to £8 for shipment to July and £8 [illegible] 6d. for August. Current values are around £8 on spot, and April-May, with later positions a trifle more. There have been pretty good arrivals of seed at English and Continental ports and fair shipments from Argentina. The total afloat for Europe, at 181,300 tons, is 19,500 tons lower on the week. Cottonseed declined sharply in the absence of demand to £5 12s. 6d. for black Egyptian, which, however, is steadier, with shippers asking £5 17s. 6d. to £6 for shipment. Linseed oil, after falling to £12 10s. per ton ex Hull mill for April delivery, has firmed up on a fair measure of support from consumers, £12 10s. now being quoted for the same position and £14 5s. for May-August. Cotton oil continues neglected. Crude Egyptian is now available at £20 ex Hull and refined (technical and edible) at £22 10s. prompt. Other vegetable oils are quiet and quotations of most have undergone reduction. Oil-cakes are in fair demand and mill prices are unchanged.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.—Prices for hides from home-slaughtered cattle recorded further reductions at the sales held at Manchester this week, all ox and heifers making from ¼d. to ½d. per lb. less money. The reduction in regard to cow hides was ½d. per lb., while there was also an easier tendency in regard to calfskins. The sheepskin market is very poor and sales can only be effected at low figures. Business in regard to foreign hides makes no headway and the majority of quotations for these goods are again on a lower basis. In the South American market wet-salted Argentine ox are now being offered at the equivalent of a fraction under 3¾d., while seconds are to be had at 3¼d. The turnover of dry hides from the same source also remains small, and with the reduced amount of business passing it is possible to obtain these goods for lower figures, B.A. Americanos being offered at 5d., Inservibles at 3d., Cuyabanos at 4½d., and M.V. Americanos at 5½d. With the small amount of trade being done in Africans the market has weakened and offers of dry Capes are now coming forward at 5½d. and 4½d. for firsts and seconds, with dry-salted 20-30 lbs. at 4¾d. and 3¾d. Unbathed Adis Abebas, 12 lbs. and up, are being marketed in small parcels at 5d., while Mombasas are fetching from 4½d. to 4¾d. Prices for most descriptions of Australians are weaker in view of the small business passing. Rather more interest has been taken in sole leather, and although orders are still confined to small quantities for immediate use, the aggregate turnover has been larger. Repairers of footwear have been good customers for English and wetsalted bends in the light and medium weights, but not much business has been done in heavier selections. Medium weight dry hide bends have also accounted for a better trade, but manufacturers of footwear are still loth to place orders for quantities, in spite of the fact that the basis of quotations is considered very low. Shoulders and bellies have been only a quiet sale. In the upper leather market the bulk of the business done is confined to black and brown glacé kid and cheap patent. In addition, orders have come to hand for moderate quantities of suède and reptile leathers, while here and there calf leathers have accounted for fair business.

RUBBER.—The market in rubber has undergone little change during the past week. There has been a little buying by manufacturers in London and in New York and prices remained steady. In New York, Wednesday's spot price for rubber at 3⅛ cents per lb. shows no change on the week. Wednesday's official closing price for standard ribbed smoked sheet in London, at 1⅞d. per lb., shows a rise of $\frac{1}{16}$d., as compared with the corresponding day last week. In forward positions, business has been done at 2$\frac{1}{16}$d. to 2⅛d. for October-December, as against 2$\frac{1}{16}$d. to 2⅛d. a week ago. Movements of rubber in London and Liverpool during the past week were as follows: Landed, 1,402 tons; delivered, 1,381 tons; stocks at the end of last week, at 124,847 tons, show an increase of 24 tons as compared with the preceding week.

COMMODITY PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(New York quotations, unless otherwise stated.)

	Mar. 16. Cents.	Apl. 6. Cents.	Apl. 13. Cents.
Wheat, No. 2, Winter, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	55⅜	56	59¼
Maize, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	39	35½	34¼
Oats, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	24⅜	24	23½
Rye, nearest future, Chicago, per bushel	47½	46	47½
Coffee, Rio No. 7, cash, per lb.	7–7¼	7½–7¾	7⅝–7⅞
„ Santos No. 4, cash, per lb.	8⅞–9¼	9⅜–9½	9⅜–9½
Cocoa, Accra, nearest future, per lb.	4·44	4·12	4·05
Sugar, Cuban Centrifugals, 96 deg., spot, per lb.	2·77	2·61	2·60
Cotton, middling, spot, per lb.	6·83	6·10	6·25
Rubber, smoked sheet, spot, per lb.	3⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Petroleum, Pennsylvania crude, standard grades, per barrel	155–170	155–170	155–170
Copper, "Electrolytic," Domestic, spot, per lb.	6	5⅞	5⅞
Copper, "Electrolytic," Copper Exporters, Inc., spot, per lb.	6⅛	6⅛	6
Spelter, East St. Louis, spot, per lb.	2·80	2·80	2·80
Lead, spot, per lb.	3·15	3·00	3·00
Tin, "Straits," spot, per lb.	21·75	19·25	18·50

DAGGAFONTEIN MINES, LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year ended 31st December, 1931.

To be submitted at the Seventeenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Board Room, "Anmercosa House," Johannesburg, on Thursday, the 19th day of May, 1932, at 11 a.m.

To the Shareholders,
DAGGAFONTEIN MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Your Directors beg to submit their Report and the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 1931.

CAPITAL.

During the year the registered capital of the Company was increased to £1,650,000. On the 19th March, 1931, 145,000 new shares were offered to shareholders at 37s. 6d. per share, and this issue was underwritten by the Rand Selection Corporation, Limited, in consideration of the right, until the 30th June, 1932, to take up 55,000 additional shares at 45s. per share.

The shares offered to shareholders realised £271,875, while of the shares under option to the Rand Selection Corporation, Limited, 8,801 were taken up prior to the 31st December, 1931, realising £19,802 5s. The issued capital of the Company at that date therefore becomes £1,603,801 and 46,199 shares are still under option at 45s. per share to the Rand Selection Corporation, Limited.

PROPERTY.

The property of the Company is as follows:—

Freehold portion of the Farm Daggafontein No. 9, situated in the Mining District of Johannesburg, Transvaal, in extent 4,367 morgen 183 square roods. The farm was proclaimed on the 22nd November, 1921, and the Company has been granted Owners' Reservations over areas totalling 2,401 morgen 66 square roods.

Shareholders were notified by circular dated 19th March, 1931, that the Company had secured from the Government the undermining rights in respect of approximately 722 additional claims. On survey this area was found to embrace 727·408 claims, and the claim holding of the Company is now as follows:—

Mynpacht Area No. 657, in extent 1,848·68 acres	1,257·785 claims.
Discoverers' Claims	178·999 „
Leased from the Government (1st Lease)	448·898 „
Leased from the Government (2nd Lease)	778·176 „
Leased from the Government (3rd Lease)	727·408 „
Acquired by Purchase	172·604 „
Cased Claims in Mynpacht	172·900 „
	3,736·770 claims.

OPERATIONS.

Technical matters are dealt with in the attached Reports of the Consulting Engineers and Mine Manager, to which your attention is directed.

FINANCE.

The total receipts and expenditure from the inception of your Company to 31st December, 1931, after making allowance for sales effected, were as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Working Capital—1,377,427 Shares at 20s. each (including Shares issued ex Options exercised)	1,377,427	0	0
308,993 Shares at 22s. 6d. each	347,617	2	6
145,000 Shares at 37s. 6d. each	271,875	0	0
8,801 Shares at 45s. each	19,802	5	0
Cash and Cash Assets taken over from Vendors	2,437	15	4
[illegible]	67,857	18	1
[illegible]	8,253	17	0
[illegible]	15,552	8	1
[illegible]	450,000	0	0
	£2,560,823	6	0

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Transfer Duty, &c.	12,043	11	8
Shaft Sinking, Permanent Haulage Ways and Equipment	1,953,817	1	0
Estate Buildings and Improvements	668	8	11
Development	355,072	19	2
General Expenses	164,604	19	2
Guarantors' Commission—Loans	25,000	0	0
Interest on Loans paid and accrued	251,684	3	1
Currency Differences Suspense	11,862	0	5
Cash and Cash Assets, less Creditors	23,556	17	10
	2,798,310	1	3
Less—Guarantors' Commission and Interest, settled by Shares issued	237,486	15	3
	£2,560,823	6	0

The sum of £3,023 reserved in respect of the Company's liability under the Miners' Phthisis Act represents the total estimated liability of the Company to the Compensation Fund. Of this amount £1,194 was reserved in 1929-30, and the balance, after allowing for accrued interest, has been dealt with in the current accounts.

Certain of your Company's assets and liabilities are payable in British sterling. As a result of the suspension by Great Britain of the gold standard as from the 21st September, 1931, a wide difference in value has resulted between British sterling and South African currency. In making up the balance sheet as at 31st December, 1931, therefore, all assets and liabilities payable in British sterling have been converted to the equivalent in South African currency at the rate of exchange ruling on that date, namely, £71 15s. South African currency equals £100 British sterling. Debits and credits arising out of these conversions have been passed to an account styled "Currency Differences Suspense" and result in a debit balance of £11,862 0s. 5d., which appears in the balance sheet. This amount is not a realised loss. The position in this respect will only be determined when the assets and liabilities in British sterling have been disposed of. Certain of the contingent liabilities for machinery orders outstanding are payable in British sterling, and on such portion of the funds of the Company in London there will be no loss on exchange.

A statement is attached to the Balance Sheet showing General Expenses and Revenue Account to the 31st December, 1931. As operations commenced on the last day of the year the balance of this account has been transferred pro rata to the various Capital accounts.

DIRECTORATE.

In terms of the Articles of Association, Messrs. C. L. Read and H. G. Latilla retire by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Early in the current year Mr. Alex Aiken, one of the Company's Auditors, became seriously ill, and in order to carry on the work of the annual audit Mr. J. G. Carter was appointed an Auditor of the Company during Mr. Aiken's indisposition.

You are requested to fix the remuneration for the past audit, and to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. The Auditors, Messrs. Alex. Aiken and A. E. Page, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

GENERAL.

With the provision of further funds referred to under the heading of Capital, the Directors decided to authorise the erection of certain sections of the plant with a capacity in excess of the 50,000 tons per month originally contemplated, and the permanent equipment for Shafts Nos. 1 and 2 was ordered with a view to dewatering the old section of the mine and bringing it into commission. It is hoped to start dewatering operations in June of the present year.

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman*,
R. B. HAGART, *Deputy Chairman*,
J. DAVIDSON,
P. DREYFUS,
A. F. MULLINS,
E. M. HIND,
C. L. READ,
Directors.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED, *Secretaries.*

Per W. WESTRUP

BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED. (Incorporated in the Union of South Africa)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year ended 31st December, 1931.

To be submitted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Board Room, "Anmercee House," Johannesburg, on the 19th May, 1932, at 2.30 p.m.

To the Shareholders, BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Your Directors beg to submit their Report and the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 1931, accompanied by the Reports of the Consulting Engineers and the Mine Manager.

CAPITAL.—The capital of the Company remains unaltered at £1,020,000 in 1,020,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid and issued.

PROPERTY.—No change has taken place during the year in your Company's claim holdings, which remain as follows:—

Mynpacht No. 490/1919, in extent 405·754 acres, equal to	276·06	Claims.
Mynpacht No. 543/1906, in extent 888·936 acres, equal to	604·80	,,
Claims on Farm Benoni No. 3, with Coal Rights on 73·326 Claims	201·59	,,
Claims on Farm Weltevreden or Brakpan No. 5	68·00	,,
Claims on Farm Weltevreden or Brakpan No. 5—leased from Union Government	1,811·70	,,
Claims on Farm Koolbult or Schapenrust No. 7	424·90	,,
	3,387·05	Claims.

The undermining rights of seven stands and four portions of stands on Farm Benoni No. 3.

Twenty-one freehold stands in Brakpan Township, on which are erected quarters for the Company's employees.

OPERATIONS.—Technical matters are dealt with in the attached Reports of the Consulting Engineers and Mine Manager, to which your attention is directed.

FINANCE.—From the Working Expenditure and Revenue Account it will be seen that the profit amounted to £553,058 2 4

Deduct—Donations 3,419 19 7

549,638 2 9

Add—Dividends on Shareholdings £1,076 0 9

Interest, Commission, Exchange, etc., ... 5,711 16 3

6,787 17 0

Leaving a Net Balance of Revenue over Expenditure for the year of 556,425 19 9

Add—Balance to Credit of Appropriation Account at 31st December, 1930 ..... 50,376 18 4

Making a total available Credit of 606,802 18 1

Against which the following amounts have been appropriated:—

Government Taxes	£47,031 12 7	
Government Participation in Profits	54,283 12 6	
Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Acts	24,943 6 3	
Dividend No. 38	204,000 0 0	
Dividend No. 39	204,000 0 0	
Capital Funds	17,213 14 11	
		551,472 6 3

Leaving a Balance unappropriated at 31st December, 1931, of... £55,330 11 10

The Capital Expenditure for the year amounted to £[illegible] as follows:—

Shaft Sinking and Equipment, as per Schedule attached to Balance Sheet .....

Shares and Interests in Other Concerns .....

Your Directors thought it advisable to capitalise a [illegible] in respect of standard stores and materials on hand, and this amount is included in the Capital Funds appropriated.

The amount payable to the Government for the year under the Mineral Lease Agreement is estimated at £[illegible] which represents 9·756 per cent. of the total profits of the Company for the year.

The amount charged to working costs for development was £[illegible]

In connection with the annual reserve in respect of the Company's liability under the Miners' Phthisis Act, the amount set aside for 1931 is £[illegible]. This, with the previous figure of £69,643 4s. 2d. and interest, makes a total reserve of £99,407 7s. as against the Company's total liability of £225,288 as assessed at the 31st July, 1931.

DIVIDENDS.

Two Dividends were declared during the year, as follows:—

	Per Cent.	Rate per Share.
		s. d.
Dividend No. 38	20	4 0
Dividend No. 39	20	4 0
	40	8 0

DIRECTORATE.

In terms of the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. L. Jourdan, W. J. O'Brien, O.B.E., M.P., retire by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

You are requested to fix the remuneration for the past audit of the Auditors for the ensuing year. The Auditors, Messrs. A. E. Page and Whiteley, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

GENERAL.

As notified to shareholders by advertisement in the press on 7th January, 1932, the Company has entered into a provisional agreement for the acquisition of the whole of the assets of the Witpoort Gold Areas, Limited, for the sum of £200,000. The agreement is subject to confirmation by the shareholders of the Witpoort Company, for which purpose an Extraordinary General Meeting has been convened for the 31st March, 1932, and to Government consent.

If the agreement is ratified, it will mean the acquisition of a [illegible] claims, which should have an important bearing on the [illegible] Company.

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman*
R. B. HAGART, *Deputy Chairman*
J. BOYD,
W. E. HUDSON,
J. L. JOURDAN,
W. J. O'BRIEN,
F. A. UNGER.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, *Secretaries.*
Per W. WESTRUP.

JOHANNESBURG, *7th March*, 1932.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1931.

Dr. To Capital—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Cr. By	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Registered and Issued: 1,020,000 Shares of £1 each ..... As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.		1,020,000 0 0	By Property, at Cost ..... Mining Claims and Freehold Stands. As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.	489,116 16 3	
,, Premium on Shares ..... As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.		998,850 10 0	,, Shaft Sinking and Equipment, at Cost... (As per attached schedule.)	2,106,022 2 6	
,, Funds Appropriated for Expenditure on Equipment and Development in Excess of Working Capital provided		850,832 3 9	,, Development, at Cost ..... As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.	216,226 13 3	
As per Balance Sheet 31st Dec., 1930	£33,618 8 10				
For the year ending 31st Dec., 1931	17,213 14 11				
,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund brought down		£2,869,682 13 9 9,000 0 0	,, Shares and Interests in Other Concerns, at or under Cost	13,913 18 3	
,, Sundry Shareholders ..... Unpaid and Unclaimed Dividends.		222,799 14 9	,, Office Furniture	1,009 3 0	
,, Government of the Union of South Africa Taxation under Income Tax Act, 1925	£5,675 1 0	109,958 13 6	,, Livestock and Vehicles	394 1 7	
Participation in Profits under Mineral Lease.....	54,283 12 6		,, Stores and Materials, Standard Stock ...	34,000 0 0	
,, Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances ...		132,484 8 3	,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund carried down		
,, Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Act (see contra)		99,407 7 0	,, Stores and Materials on Hand and in Transit in Excess of Standard Stock...		
,, Balance of Appropriation Account		55,330 11 10	,, Reserve Fund Investments (see contra)...		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES—			,, Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances ...		
Shares and Interests in other Concerns	£13,855 13 0		,, Gold in Transit	1,784 14 3	
Machinery Orders Outstanding.....	2,822 19 11		,, Loan at Call	325,910 0 4	
	£16,678 13 11		,, Cash at Bankers and in Hand	157,395 14 7	
The Company is liable for its proportion of the Miners' Phthisis Compensation Funds in terms of the Miners' Phthisis Acts Consolidation Act, 1925 (vide Directors' Report)					
This Balance Sheet is drawn up in South African currency and the Assets and Liabilities in British sterling have been converted into South African currency at the rate of exchange ruling on the 31st December, 1931, namely, £71 15s. South African currency equals £100 British sterling.		£3,498,683 9 1			£3,498,683 9 1

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman,*
R. B. HAGART, *Deputy Chairman.*
J. L. JOURDAN,
Directors.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, *Secretaries.*
Per W. WESTRUP.

To the Shareholders, BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

We have audited the Balance Sheet dated 31st December, 1931, above set forth, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The Company has kept proper Books and Records, and, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

JOHANNESBURG,
3rd March, 1932.

A. E. PAGE (Incorporated Accountant).
PERCIVAL WHITELEY (Chartered Accountant).
Auditors.

THE REPORT OF THE

YOUNG PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BASLE—DECEMBER 1931

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BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year ended 31st December, 1931.

To be submitted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Board Room, "Anmercoss House," Johannesburg, on Thursday, the 19th May, 1932, at 2.30 p.m.

To the Shareholders, BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Your Directors beg to submit their Report and the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 1931, accompanied by the Reports of the Consulting Engineers and the Mine Manager.

CAPITAL.—The capital of the Company remains unaltered at £1,020,000 in 1,020,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid and issued.

PROPERTY.—No change has taken place during the year in your Company's claim holdings, which remain as follows:—

Mynpacht No. 490/1919, in extent 405·754 acres, equal to	276·06	Claims.
Mynpacht No. 543/1906, in extent 888·936 acres, equal to	604·80	,,
Claims on Farm Benoni No. 3, with Coal Rights on 73·326 Claims	201·59	,,
Claims on Farm Weltevreden or Brakpan No. 5	68·00	,,
Claims on Farm Weltevreden or Brakpan No. 5—leased from Union Government	1,811·70	,,
Claims on Farm Koolbult or Schapenrust No. 7	424·90	,,
	3,387·05	Claims.

The undermining rights of seven stands and four portions of stands on Farm Benoni No. 3.

Twenty-one freehold stands in Brakpan Township, on which are erected quarters for the Company's employees.

OPERATIONS.—Technical matters are dealt with in the attached Reports of the Consulting Engineers and Mine Manager, to which your attention is directed.

		£	s.	d.
FINANCE.—From the Working Expenditure and Revenue Account it will be seen that the profit amounted to		553,058	2	4
Deduct—Donations		3,419	19	7
		549,638	2	9
Add—Dividends on Shareholdings	£1,076 0 9			
Interest, Commission, Exchange, etc.	5,711 16 3			
		6,787	17	0
Leaving a Net Balance of Revenue over Expenditure for the year of		556,425	19	9
Add—Balance to Credit of Appropriation Account at 31st December, 1930		50,376	18	4
Making a total available Credit of		606,802	18	1
Against which the following amounts have been appropriated:—				
Government Taxes	£47,031 12 7			
Government Participation in Profits	54,283 12 6			
Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Acts	24,943 6 3			
Dividend No. 38	204,000 0 0			
Dividend No. 39	204,000 0 0			
Capital Funds	17,213 14 11			
		551,472	6	3
Leaving a Balance unappropriated at 31st December, 1931, of		£55,330	11	10

The Capital Expenditure for the year amounted to £3,737 3s., made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Shaft Sinking and Equipment, as per Schedule attached to Balance Sheet	3,336	7	6
Shares and Interests in Other Concerns	400	15	6
	£3,737	3	0

Your Directors thought it advisable to capitalise a further amount of £7,000 in respect of standard stores and materials on hand, and this amount has been included in the Capital Funds appropriated.

The amount payable to the Government for the year under the terms of the Mineral Lease Agreement is estimated at £54,283 12s. 6d. This figure represents 9·756 per cent. of the total profits of the Company for the year.

The amount charged to working costs for development was £146,943.

In connection with the annual reserve in respect of the Company's liability under the Miners' Phthisis Act, the amount set aside for 1931 is £30,943 6s. 3d. This, with the previous figure of £69,643 6s. 2d. and interest accrued, gives a total reserve of £99,407 7s. as against the Company's total estimated liability of £225,288 as assessed at the 31st July, 1931.

DIVIDENDS.

Two Dividends were declared during the year, as follows:—

	Per Cent.	Rate per Share. s. d.	Total Amount. £ s. d.
Dividend No. 38	20	4 0	204,000 0 0
Dividend No. 39	20	4 0	204,000 0 0
	40	8 0	408,000 0 0

DIRECTORATE.

In terms of the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. L. Jourdan and W. J. O'Brien, O.B.E., M.P., retire by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

You are requested to fix the remuneration for the past audit, and to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. The Auditors, Messrs. A. E. Page and P. Whiteley, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

GENERAL.

As notified to shareholders by advertisement in the press on the 21st January, 1932, the Company has entered into a provisional agreement for the acquisition of the whole of the assets of the Witpoort Gold Areas, Limited, for the sum of £200,000. The agreement is subject to confirmation by the shareholders of the Witpoort Company, for which purpose an Extraordinary General Meeting has been convened for the 31st March, 1932, and to Government consent.

If the agreement is ratified, it will mean the acquisition of a further 3,000 claims, which should have an important bearing on the effective life of your Company.

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman*
R. B. HAGART, *Deputy Chairman*
J. BOYD,
W. E. HUDSON,
J. L. JOURDAN,
W. J. O'BRIEN,
F. A. UNGER,
} *Directors.*

ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED,
Per W. WESTRUP.
Secretaries.

JOHANNESBURG, *7th March*, 1932.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1931.

Dr. To Capital—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr. By Property, at Cost	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Registered and Issued: 1,020,000 Shares of £1 each				1,020,000	0	0	Mining Claims and Freehold Stands. As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.	489,116	16	3			
,, Premium on Shares				998,850	10	0	,, Shaft Sinking and Equipment, at Cost... (As per attached schedule.)	2,106,023	2	6			
,, Funds Appropriated for Expenditure on Equipment and Development in Excess of Working Capital provided				850,832	3	9	,, Development, at Cost	216,226	12	3			
As per Balance Sheet 31st Dec., 1930	833,618	8	10				As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1930.				2,811,365	10	11
For the year ending 31st Dec., 1931	17,213	14	11				,, Shares and Interests in Other Concerns, at or under Cost	13,913	18	3			
,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund brought down				£2,869,682	13	9	,, Office Furniture	1,009	3	0			
				9,000	0	0	,, Livestock and Vehicles	394	1	7			
,, Sundry Shareholders Unpaid and Unclaimed Dividends.				222,799	14	9	,, Stores and Materials, Standard Stock	34,000	0	0			
,, Government of the Union of South Africa Taxation under Income Tax Act, 1925	55,675	1	0	109,958	13	6					49,317	2	10
Participation in Profits under Mineral Lease	54,283	12	6				,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund carried down				9,000	0	0
,, Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances				132,484	8	3					2,869,682	13	9
,, Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Act (see contra)				99,407	7	0	,, Stores and Materials on Hand and in Transit in Excess of Standard Stock...				14,649	8	3
,, Balance of Appropriation Account				55,330	11	10	,, Reserve Fund Investments (see contra)...				99,407	7	0
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES—							,, Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances				20,833	11	0
Shares and Interests in other Concerns	£13,855	13	0				,, Gold in Transit	1,784	14	3			
Machinery Orders Outstanding	2,822	19	11				,, Loan at Call	325,910	0	4			
	£16,678	13	11				,, Cash at Bankers and in Hand	157,395	14	7			
											485,090	9	3
											£3,498,663	9	1
				£3,498,663	9	1							

The Company is liable for its proportion of the Miners' Phthisis Compensation Funds in terms of the Miners' Phthisis Acts Consolidation Act, 1925 (vide Directors' Report)

This Balance Sheet is drawn up in South African currency and the Assets and Liabilities in British sterling have been converted into South African currency at the rate of exchange ruling on the 31st December, 1931, namely, £71 11s. South African currency equals £100 British sterling.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, *Secretaries.*
Per W. WESTRUP.

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman.*
R. B. HAGART, *Deputy Chairman.*
J. L. JOURDAN,
} *Directors.*

To the Shareholders, BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

We have audited the Balance Sheet dated 31st December, 1931, above set forth, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The Company has kept proper Books and Records, and, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

JOHANNESBURG,
3rd March, 1932.

A. E. PAGE (Incorporated Accountant).
PERCIVAL WHITELEY (Chartered Accountant).
} *Auditors.*

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